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Lawrence County

FOR THE

Dakota Territory Centennial

Edited by

Mildred Fielder

Illustrated by

Marjorie Yates Price

Sponsored by

The Lawrence County Centennial Committee
for the Dakota Territory Centennial, 1861-1961

CARLTON O. GORDER, DEADWOOD, CHAIRMAN

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JOHN J. GERING, DEADWOOD

DONALD P. HOWE, LEAD

JAMES D. JELBERT, SPEARFISH

and

The Lead Civic Association

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researcher for Thoen Stone

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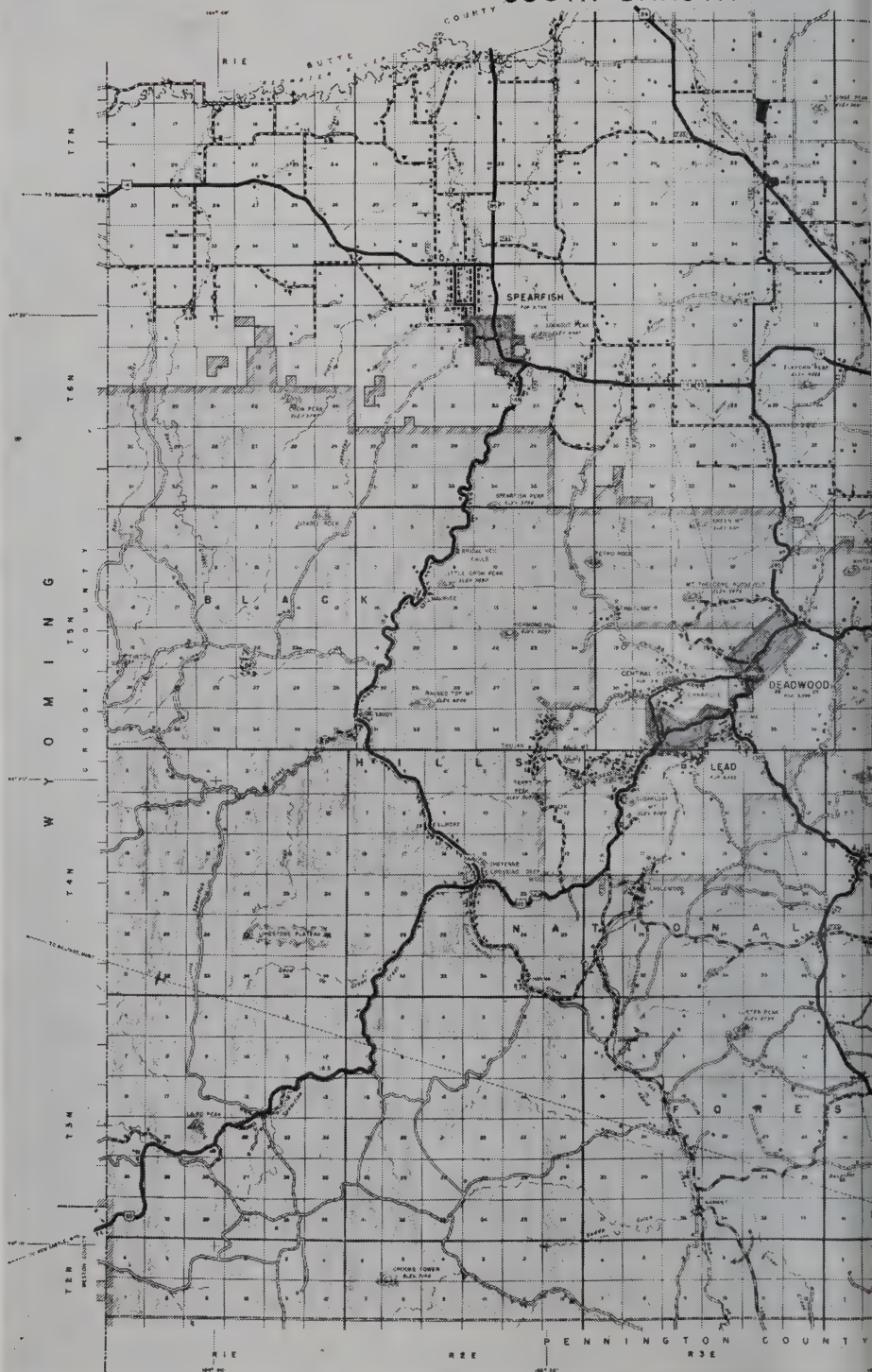
Photo by Don Howe, 1960, by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company

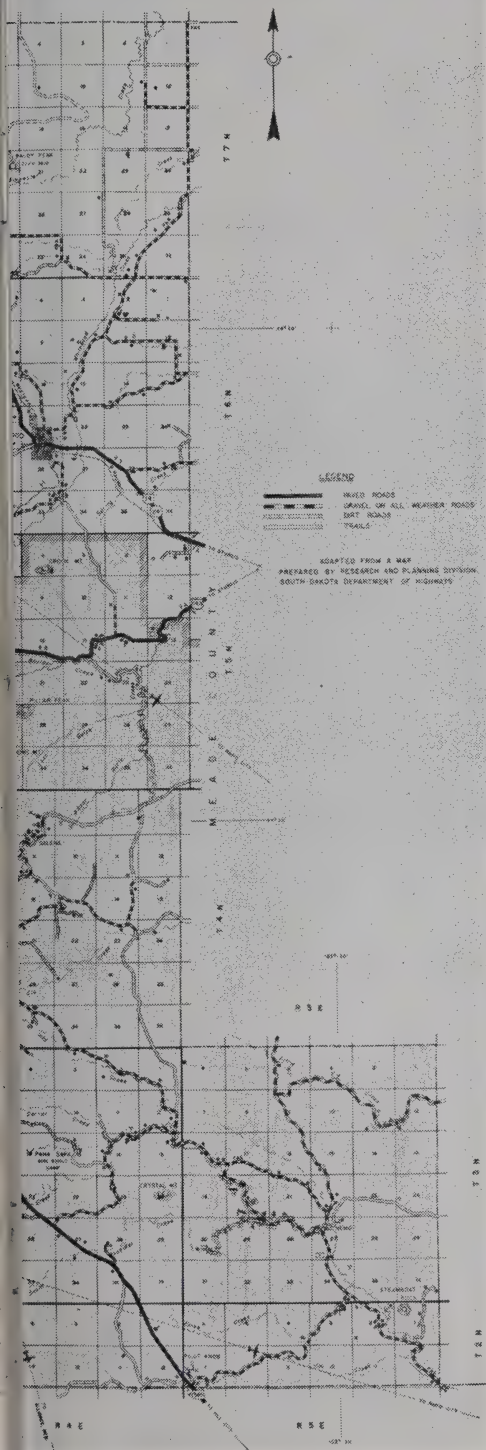
Part of Lawrence county, looking over Centennial Valley
toward the higher hills around Lead and Deadwood.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
for the
DAKOTA TERRITORY CENTENNIAL
1861 - 1961



LAWRENCE COUNTY SOUTH DAKOTA





1959

The light shaded area shows the boundaries of the Black Hills National Forest Reserve, and with the white portion around Lead and Deadwood includes the hill or mountainous lands in Lawrence County. Towns of Spearfish, St. Onge, Whitewood, Lead, Deadwood and Central City are indicated by the darker areas. The white northern section includes the rural flatlands, parts of which are known as Centennial Valley and Spearfish Valley.

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Lawrence County Highway
Department*

THE THOEN STONE

by Frank Thomson



The first recorded history of white men being in Lawrence County came to light when Louis Thoen, while quarrying building stones with his brother Ivan at the foot of Lookout Mountain near Spearfish, March 1887, found a flat slab of sandstone with this message scratched upon it:

"Came to these hills in 1833 seven of us—DeLacompt—Ezra Kind—G. W. Wood—T. Brown—R. Kent—Wm. King—Indian Crow—all ded but me Ezra Kind—Killed by Ind beyond the high hill got our gold June 1834."

On reverse side:

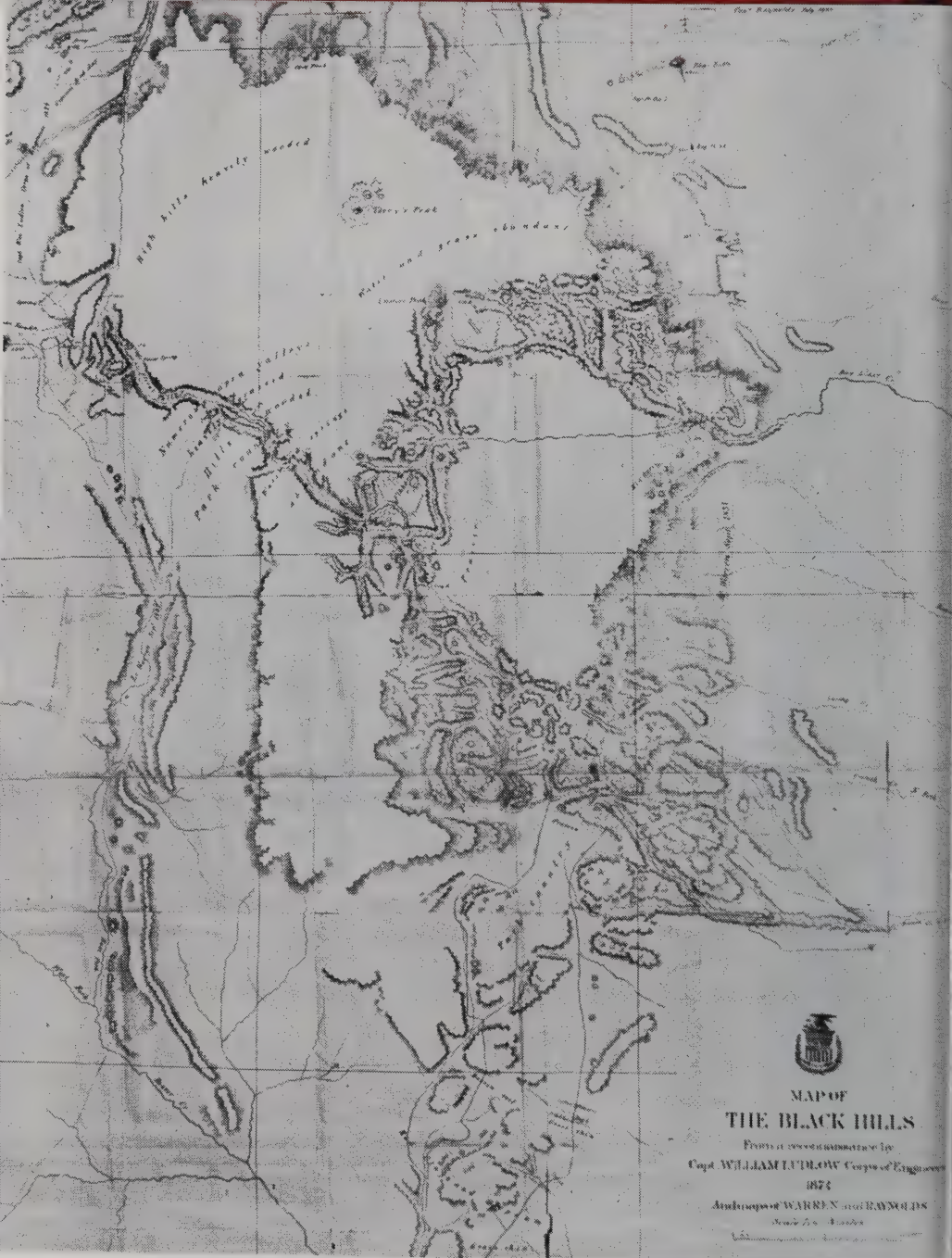
"Got all of the gold we could carry our ponys all got by the Indians I have lost my gun and nothing to eat and indians hunting me."

While this stone message is considered authentic, elaborate research over many years has failed to clear many provoking details. Their gold has never been found. The whereabouts of the placer ground that produced it is uncertain. The manner of their entry into these hills is undetermined and the place of the massacre is unknown.

Had these adventurous men returned home and related their discoveries, the gold rush to the Black Hills might have been forty years earlier.

During the period from 1834 to 1875 the Black Hills was a land of deer, elk, buffalo, grizzly bear and Sioux Indians. The few white miners who found their way here were killed by Indians. The Sioux held their home land for forty years by eternal vigilance before others found the bonanza once tapped by Ezra Kind.

The original Thoen Stone is in the Adams Memorial Hall, Deadwood, and a Thoen Stone Historical Marker has been erected at Spearfish.



Used by permission of Homestake Library

"Map of the Black Hills. From a reconnaissance by Capt. William Ludlow, Corps of Engineers, 1874. And maps of Warren and Reynolds. Drawn by Sergt. C. Becker." Compiled from Custer Warren expedition information of 1874, plus Warren and Reynolds explorations in 1857 and 1859. Shows unexplored area in which Terry Peak is noted in upper blank area otherwise identified as "High hills heavily wooded."

LAWRENCE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

by Mildred Fielder



The Thoen Stone was a bizarre introduction, but more standard history records indicate that while several exploratory expeditions skirted around parts of the Black Hills between the Thoen Stone date and the big gold rush of '76, there is a question whether any of them other than Custer were actually in Lawrence County.

According to Doane Robinson in his "History of South Dakota" (1904) two exploratory parties were very close to Lawrence County in the years leading to our century mark of 1861. In 1857 Lieutenant Gouverneur K. Warren with a party including Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden, geologist, went north from Fort Laramie to Inyan Kara along the western edge of the hills, turned back for forty miles to cross the southern edge and moved up the eastern side of the hills to Bear Butte before returning to Fort Randall on the Missouri River. In 1859, Mr. Robinson says, Captain W. F. Reynolds and Dr. Hayden came from Fort Pierre "going across country to the Cheyenne, which they reached at about the mouth of Cherry Creek, where they proceeded up the river, visited Bear Butte and from there followed up the Red Water to the state line and on to the Yellowstone."

The Warren-Hayden group was near Lawrence County, but not in it unless one acknowledges that Bear Butte was once part of the county. Reynolds and Hayden may have been within the present county boundaries if they traveled the southern bank of the Redwater rather than the north. Neither party could possibly have been in the area deeper than its 1960 county lines.

General George A. Custer's 1874 military expedition into the Black Hills passed through the southeastern portion of Lawrence County on his way out of the hills, following Boxelder Creek from Nemo toward the edge of the hills. He was moving. He had accomplished his purpose and was headed back toward Fort Abraham Lincoln in Dakota Territory. Other groups came close to the county in those years between Ezra Kind's party and the rush to the hills, but if we would believe available records nobody stopped.

Unofficially somebody was definitely in this area before then. Isolated crumbling cabins and rusted tools were found by '76 pioneers when they came to look for gold. Those ghostly forerunners cannot be identified, and so we must claim 1875 and 1876 as the first years of any concentrated activity in Lawrence County. The trickle of gold miners began in late 1875, boomed to frenzy in 1876, and laid the foundation for one of the most prosperous counties in South Dakota. Deadwood was the first gold camp in Lawrence County, with the first few miners in the gulch in 1875. From Deadwood, the gold excitement spread in all directions.

Lawrence County was named for John Lawrence, a Yankton legislator, and was created in 1875. Its boundaries were described at that time in Section 5, Chapter XXIX of the Dakota Territory legislature proceedings:

"The county of Lawrence shall be bounded and described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest Corner of Custer County, where the Boundaries of the Territory of Dakota and the Territory of Wyoming intersects the forty fourth parallel of north latitude; and running thence north along that boundary to its point of intersection with the Belle Fourche or North Fork of Big Cheyenne River; thence easterly along the channel of the Belle Fourche or North Fork to its intersection with the one hundred and third meridian of longitude; thence south along the meridian to its intersection with the forty fourth parallel of north latitude and thence westerly along that parallel to the place of beginning."

On March 5, 1877 the county was organized by act of legislature and rebounded by giving the south part of Lawrence to Pennington county, and extending the eastern edge to the Cheyenne river. In 1881 the legislature added the area between the Belle Fourche and the Redwater rivers to Lawrence County, and in 1887 the county also acquired the area between the Belle Fourche river and the 103rd meridian. In 1889 Meade County lopped off a big chunk when that county was created, leaving Lawrence County's boundaries as they are now.

The organization of Lawrence County government in 1877 was not without its battles. Governor Pennington sent one county commissioner from Yankton, territorial capital, and selected two more from Lawrence County, one from Crook City and the other from Deadwood. The three commissioners voted to set the county seat in Crook City, but the decision met with such immediate disapproval that they were able to hold only one commissioners' meeting in Crook City before moving to Deadwood.

The first courthouse room at Deadwood was held in Bonanza Hall on Lee Street for two or three sessions, then a more suitable courtroom was found on Main Street. The county leased the second floor in a building owned by Cuthbertson and Young, shipping merchants and wholesalers in foods. Court was held in that hall until the Deadwood fire of 1879, at which time the building and all Lawrence County records were completely burnt.

The calamity caused a furor. The Lawrence County seat of government had to meet somewhere, and they temporarily leased a box house on upper Main Street from Jacob Wertheimer while they looked for permanent quarters. At least five groups of citizens campaigned vigorously for their proposed new courthouse sites. Cuthbertson and Young insisted that their lease should be recognized even though their building had gone up in smoke. A group led by Seth Bullock advocated a lower Main Street site. McLaughlin partisans suggested the corner of Main and Lee Streets. Those headed by Charles McKinnis said the corner of Sherman and Pine Streets was best.

The question was finally settled when Jake Anthony offered the county a building owned by him, absolutely "without one cent of expense to the county," to be used until Fred Evans' proposition of the building of a completely new courthouse could be accomplished.

Fred Evans agreed with the Sherman and Pine Streets corner, ultimately completing a structure of merit for the county at a total cost of \$12,000, a sum of considerable prestige in that decade. The county courthouse is there today.

The earliest census taken in Lawrence County was that of 1880, four years after the big rush to the hills. As you will have noted, Lawrence County extended for all practical purposes past Sturgis and Fort Meade, now part of Meade County, so a comparison must always keep that in mind.

All the farm lands along the False Bottom creek north of Centennial Prairie and the Redwater and Hay creeks were included. Pleasant Valley and the Morse or Morris Creek east of Tilford were there, which necessarily included Fort Meade and Sturgis. West and south the boundary lines were approximately the same as they are today, and here were the mining centers.

Deadwood, Central City, Terraville, and Lead City had the big populations, but they were flanked on all sides by bustling suburbs. Deadwood had suffered its ruinous fire only the year before the 1880 census, and landmarks were still confusing in lower Deadwood. For that reason the census taker lumped lower Deadwood into two areas only, Elizabethtown and Census Enumeration District No. 121. Old records mention such areas as Montana City near the old smelter slag pile, Fountain City, Elizabethtown and Chinatown below Deadwood proper. From detailed study of the census, we can only assume that he did the best he could with what information he had, and all of lower Deadwood must be there. Certainly the combination of Elizabethtown and District No. 121 is the one area in which a high concentration of Chinese are listed, including thirty or more Chinese miners. It is interesting to note, however, that Chinese laundries were scattered in nearly every little mining village in the northern hills besides lower Deadwood.

Above Deadwood and up Deadwood Gulch we find Gayville, Blacktail Gulch, South Bend, Central City, Golden Gate and Anchor City. From Anchor City we go uphill to find miners in Poormans Gulch, the gulch leading up the hill to Lead City. Beyond Lead we find activity in every direction.

Tinton and the Nigger Hill district were booming. Potato Creek, Iron Creek and Beaver Gulch were filled with placer miners. Nevada Gulch had a couple of families prospecting in the stream. Bald Mountain boasted 229 residents, but many of them were working for the woodcamp there rather than the mine. A mill and a boarding house added to Bald Mountain's prosperity, but at least half the men seemed to have been connected with the lumber camp.

Sawmills and woodcamps were scattered liberally over the hills area. There was one on Yellow Creek, others on Elk Creek and Bear Butte Creek, Whitewood Creek at California Gulch, a sawmill on Centennial Prairie along Volin's Road, on upper Spearfish Creek, in Pee Dee Gulch and elsewhere. In spite of their number a statement in an early "Deadwood Pioneer-Times" complains that the sawmills could not meet the demand for lumber.

Galena's 108 inhabitants were augmented by a number of smaller villages close by. Quartz mining was the occupation at nearby Virginia City and Strawberry Gulch. Just over a couple of valleys and hills was Carterville on Elk Creek in one direction and Mountain Ranch in the other direction. Nearby Two Bit Gulch had both a sawmill and mining.

All around the foothills were the farms, through Centennial Valley, clustered around Crow Peak, down Spearfish Valley and Whitewood Creek and around Crook City, Sturgis City, in every valley that flattened enough to allow farming. Crook City seemed to be more of a stagecoach terminal than anything else, and Fort Meade was a cavalry post of 558 personnel headed by Post Commandant Samuel D. Sturgis.

We tried to make some order out of the chaos of occupations listed in the 1880 census, but it was a hopeless attempt. Those were the days of the horse and wagon and included such jobs as teamsters, livery stables, wheelwrights, wagon makers, blacksmiths, grain dealers, corral keepers,

harness makers, stage drivers, draymen and other related occupations. Lead and Deadwood had the most colorful assortment of jobs. One man in Lead listed himself quite frankly as a loafer, and three were just as frank in calling themselves capitalists. Saloons were as plentiful as grocery stores. The most popular occupation in Lead was, as might be expected, mining, with housekeeping on the part of the women, but everything from the law to one lowly charman was included, too. In the field of medicine, Israel Swihart listed himself as a Botanic Physician and Neil H. Howe was an Eclectic Physician, whatever that is. In defense of Lead's medical practice we must add that there were at least three bonafide physicians and surgeons in town, too, including Drs. John W. White, John G. Miller and Patrick Connolly. To Lead's credit, Lead had two clergymen, Congregational minister George Hindley and Roman Catholic Father John Toohey.

Judging from occupations listed, there may have been a brewery in Lead as well as in or near Central City. Both Golden Gate and Gayville listed brewers, and they flank Central City rather solidly.

Deadwood's occupations were centered around miners, too, but the general run of business differed from Lead City in its gayer outlook toward life. In Deadwood we find musicians, showmen and actresses, tea merchants, many liquor dealers and others who admit simply to being saloon keepers and bartenders. Deadwood was the only place we found a "Silver Buffer," too, though Deadwood also had a lonely milk merchant in its lists. All of the necessary occupations were in Deadwood as they were in Lead, meaning such men as blacksmiths, sawyers, machinists, barbers, dentists, merchants, dry-goods stores, restaurants and hotels, printers, stage drivers, drug stores, editors, clothiers, stone-cutters and women working as dressmakers, milliners, laundresses and waitresses.

One heaves a vast sigh to think of the turmoil that must have filled the gulches in 1880.

Who was there? One can't begin to name them all, but the total number of people in this outsize Lawrence County of 1880 added to 13,334 men, women and children. In our last census, that of 1960, a much smaller county held 17,075 people but the population was considerably shifted.

Lead City was a mining camp of 1,441 population in 1880; in 1960 Lead listed 6,211. Deadwood with its adjoining Elizabethtown and Chinatown in District No. 121 could count 4,353 people in 1880, and in 1960 the population was down to 3,045. In considering the two towns of Lead and Deadwood one must remember that between the two in 1880 the population almost completely filled the gulches between them, with Deadwood Gulch listing such towns as Anchor, Golden Gate, Poorman's Gulch, Gayville, Black Tail, South Bend, Terraville and Central City to a total figure of 3,027 people. Of that amount, Central City claimed within its close confines 1,012 population, as contrasted with its acknowledged 218 in 1950 and 284 in 1960. Most of the other Deadwood Gulch names are known to Lawrence County residents today, but they can no longer be acknowledged as postal addresses.

In the valleys, Spearfish Village had 171 inhabitants in 1880, and in 1960 had grown to a 3,682 figure. Scattered through the hills and the rural flatlands were the rest of Lawrence County's people, 4,342 strong in 1880 and still holding well at 3,383 in 1960.

Most of the small village names are only memories today. Crook City is gone, though Whitewood, 470 population, and St. Onge have taken its place. In the higher hills many little mining camps and sawmill locations are abandoned ghosts.

Terry, west of Lead, was a thriving town of 1,177 in the early 1900's, but only a few families live there today. Kirk and Englewood south of Lead, were important railroad centers fifty years ago, and have dwindled to a power plant in Kirk and a few homes in Englewood. Galena is only a small residential spot in a canyon, with its big years of mining gone. Absolute ghost towns include such names as Carbonate Camp, Welcome, Carthage, Balmoral, Baltimore, Preston, Calcite, Tinton, Maitland and a dozen others. Roubaix (once Perry) claims a few homes only. Savoy and Elmore are summer resorts. Even Trojan (once known as Portland) near Bald Mountain has closed its mines in favor of a tourist center. Pluma exists much as it has always been, more or less an extension of businesses between Lead and Deadwood but a part of neither. Terraville has a school and two streets full of homes, but it is economically dependent on Lead just over the hill.

What made the differences in the population shift of Lawrence County? Our industries are still here, our towns are wide awake and alert to the changing times.

In this book, we would like to tell you what happened to make Lawrence County what it is today.



Copied by permission of Adams Memorial Hall

Very early day street scene, Deadwood, South Dakota, showing oxen hitched in a bull-train along Main Street. Photo owned by Adams Memorial Hall, Deadwood, S. Dak.

DEADWOOD

by Judge John J. Gering

LAWRENCE COUNTY JUDGE



Historic and scenic Deadwood is one of the best known cities for its size in the United States. This was confirmed by the way it made headlines over the country at the time of a recent forest fire. Some communities are known for their history and others for their scenery. Deadwood claims both.

Deadwood came into existence as a result of the discovery of gold by the Custer expedition on French Creek near Custer in 1874. The Black Hills were then still Indian country and closed to white settlers and adventurers. When eventually opened to gold seekers, a mass of humanity poured into this new El Dorado from all points of the compass. The rush was first into the southern hills where gold had first been discovered. Late in the fall of 1875 the search for the precious yellow metal moved into the northern hills and resulted in placer findings in Deadwood Gulch. Deadwood derived its name from the large amount of dead timber and driftwood which the gold seekers encountered in the gulch on their arrival there in the spring of 1876. The memorable year of 1876 marks the birth of Deadwood.

The word "gold" has a magic touch to it. The mere mention of its presence anywhere attracts immediate attention and throughout history has resulted in a stampede to such locations. Deadwood Gulch was no exception. Before the end of the year unnumbered thousands of people were crowding into this narrow canyon hoping to find fortune in the new gold strike.

Placer mining consisted of washing gold from the coarse gravel in the creek beds. The placer miner's tools were a pick, a shovel and a gold pan. While this method of mining was simple and inexpensive, it was also short-lived. The placers were soon worked out and mining had to go underground. Placer claims were located on most of the creeks in the northern hills. The most productive one was Deadwood Creek, flowing through Central City and Deadwood.

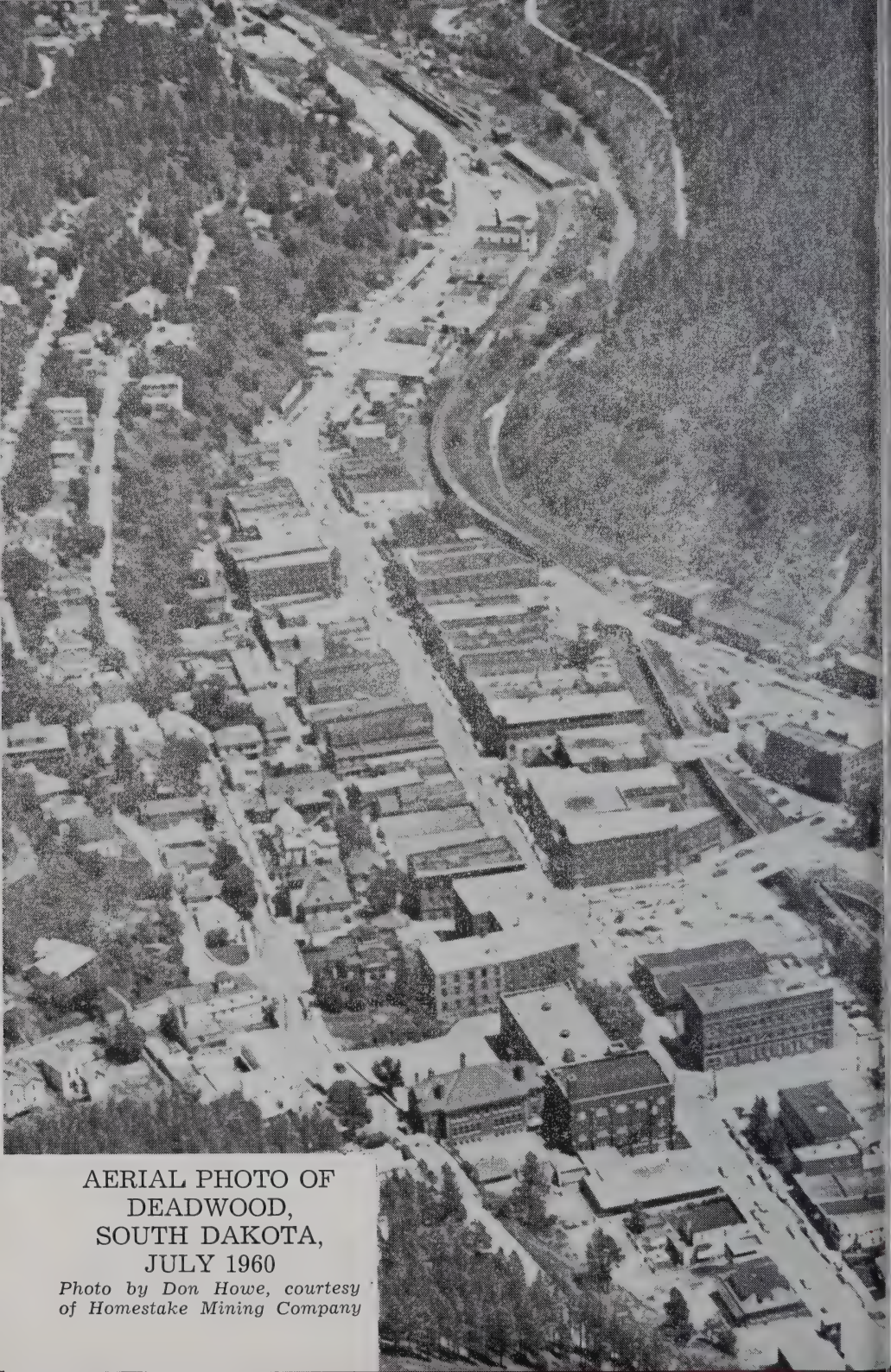
Lured by gold, the rush to Deadwood became a race to get there first. By all means of transportation thousands hurried from all directions to the mining camp. Among them were fortune hunters, claim jumpers, stage robbers, cattle rustlers, thieves, gamblers, prospectors, bartenders, harlots, assayers, cowboys, pony-express riders, goldsmiths, sheriffs, engineers, lawyers, clergymen and others. It is safe to assume that among this multitude were basically good, honest and respectable people whose only motive was to better their lot in life. A few made fortunes, many were disappointed and others met tragedy and an early grave.

Life in Deadwood at the very beginning was largely without restriction or legal authority. It was a case of every individual looking out for himself with little concern for the neighbor. There were endless altercations among the people ending frequently in gun fights and sometimes death. The first act of government in Deadwood was to set up a pest house after a prospector from Cheyenne brought in smallpox and exposed the entire camp. Soon the better class of citizens went to work and organized the first city administration by electing a mayor and full set of city officials in September 1876. This brought at least a semblance of law and order into the camp and ended an era of everyone a law unto himself. The fight against lawlessness in Deadwood is still a part of the town. An early crusader for a better Deadwood was E. L. Senn.



Photo by Mildred Fielder

Bust of Wild Bill Hickok, carved by Korczak Ziolkowski. Presented to the town of Deadwood, South Dakota, by George R. Hunter in 1956. It is located half a block from the Adams Memorial Hall, in Deadwood.



AERIAL PHOTO OF
DEADWOOD,
SOUTH DAKOTA,
JULY 1960

*Photo by Don Howe, courtesy
of Homestake Mining Company*



Deadwood during the early months of 1876 was a newly founded mining camp. The thousands of people who rushed into the gulch almost overnight had to be fed, sheltered and equipped with tools to mine gold. Buildings consisted of hastily erected sheds of slabs and clapboards along the gulch, now Main Street. Business was thriving, growth fabulous and activity in the camp lived around the clock. Of the multitude who came and tried their luck at gold mining, many failed and moved to other areas. Only those who remained and became permanent citizens constitute the real founders and builders of Deadwood. Among the pioneers of the 1876 era whose names are still legend in the community are Judge Gideon C. Moody, who became a United States senator, Colonel W. H. Parker, elected to Congress in 1906; Seth Bullock, Lawrence County's first sheriff; Harris Franklin, banker, after whom the Franklin Hotel was named; George V. Ayres, P. A. Gushurst, Jacob Goldberg and Sam Schwarzwald, merchants; John Hunter, early day sawmill operator and merchant; W. E. Adams, wholesale grocer and donor of Adams Memorial Hall museum to the city; Dighton Corson, who became a state supreme court judge; Henry Frawley, prominent territorial day lawyer and rancher; John S. McClintock, author of "Pioneer Days in the Black Hills." Dr. F. S. Howe, located here in 1901, rendered service to the community for more than half a century and recorded much of Deadwood's history in his recent book, "Deadwood Doctor." To this list of names could be added those of many brave men and women who endured the wild frontier to establish this community for all generations to enjoy.

With this crowd who came in quest of gold and fortune there also arrived a few individuals in the early days whose names became a tradition to live in books and marble. Chief of them is perhaps James Butler Hickok, known to the world as "Wild Bill." Reputed to be a law enforcement officer, his career in the camp was cut short by being assassinated at a poker game. His memory is being perpetuated in Deadwood by the annual rendition of the play "The Trial of Jack McCall" for the killing of Wild Bill Hickok, and a statue sculptured by Korczak Ziolkowski and erected at the foot of Boot Hill. "Calamity Jane," Martha Jane Canary

her real name, was a woman dressed in man's garb. She was a bullwhacker, drank, swore, traveled with the army and is remembered for helping the poor and sick in the camp. "Preacher Smith," the Reverend Henry Weston Smith, an ordained Methodist minister, arrived in the camp early in 1876, preached to the miners on the streets and was killed reputedly by the Indians on a trip to Crook City. A monument has been erected to his memory on Highway 85 north of Deadwood near the site of the killing. "Potato Creek Johnny" Perrett was a prospector who made his mark at placer mining or panning for gold. He is credited with finding the largest gold nugget in the Black Hills, a replica of which can be seen at the Adams museum. All four of these characters are buried in Mount Moriah Cemetery overlooking Deadwood and their graves are a very popular tourist attraction.

Though religion was first brought into Deadwood Gulch by Preacher Smith, the first organized church was founded by the Congregationalists and the first service held December 3, 1876. About that time or soon after, the Catholic and Methodist churches were organized.

Deadwood, like some other cities, also experienced disasters in its early life. The wooden structures erected in a hurry to accommodate the masses who came in 1876 fell an easy prey to the flames in a fire which swept the gulch September 29, 1879, and destroyed the entire business section of the city. The loss was very heavy, suffering by the people intense and the future uncertain. The will to survive persisted and over the ashes a new and better Deadwood was built. The building boom following the fire was without precedent in the history of the Black Hills.

The people of Deadwood had not much more than re-established themselves from the fire of 1879 when a new calamity overtook them. This time it was a flood resulting from an unusually heavy snowfall during the winter of 1882-1883. The material loss from the flood was not as heavy as that from the fire three years before, but the suffering was even worse. Four people lost their lives in this disaster. The flood first struck Central City and came down Deadwood Creek in torrents, washing away all structures on Main Street. The city's recovery from this second calamity was slower than from the fire.

A recent regrettable misfortune to visit Deadwood was the forest fire of September 1959, which did considerable damage to business establishments and dwellings on the outskirts of the city. It also completely destroyed the Northwest Wood Preserving Company's large post plant and the popular Pine Crest Cabin Camp north of the city, including Deadwood Dick's cabin. The damage to timber and scenery was immense and will take decades to repair. Only the heroic work of the fire fighters and a miraculous last minute change in the wind saved Deadwood from what might have been total destruction.

The history of Deadwood would be incomplete without a reference to its early day Chinatown, a section on lower Main Street at one time occupied by an estimated 400 Chinese. In addition to their usual laundering and eating establishments they followed other occupations including prospecting. They wore their picturesque native costumes, smoked opium pipes, had their own doctors, funeral homes, private holidays and a complete Chinese hose team for the fire department which won first prize at a 4th of July celebration in 1888. At Adams Memorial Hall can still be seen pictures and trophies of Chinese Sunday Schools and other activities while Chinatown was in existence. The Wong family won distinction and is well remembered by pioneers still alive. These orientals gradually conformed to American fashions and eventually left. Chinatown is only a memory, but Chinatown still represents an important segment in the big "Days of '76" street parade.

Unlike Rome's seven hills, Deadwood and its environs rest on many hills of which Deadwood Hill is best known. The city lies close and snug in a narrow gulch between pine-clad hills, making it both scenic and unique. As the gulch was soon filled with buildings, it became necessary to provide more building room. Streets were laid on the hillsides and construction followed. Growth will find a way. A scene worthwhile, particularly at night, is to look up the steep slopes dotted with buildings and lights on both sides of the gulch. A good view of Deadwood can be had from Mount Moriah Cemetery and a still better one from the glistening pinnacles of White Rocks. Both Deadwood and Whitewood Creeks meander through the city and add their musical

ripple to the activities of the busy city. Unfortunately the natural scenery of Deadwood has been marred by the recent forest fire.

The day Deadwood drew the largest crowd ever recorded was the occasion of the visit of President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge. That was in August 1927, the year the President spent his vacation at the Game Lodge in the Black Hills and came to Deadwood to visit the "Days of '76" celebration. The President and his wife were the guests of Dr. F. S. Howe, then mayor of Deadwood, and Mrs. Howe. This was about the time President Coolidge made his famous statement: "I do not choose to run for president in 1928."

Deadwood is served by the Burlington and Northwestern Railroads for freight service, the Continental Trailways for bus service and the North Central Airlines at the nearby Black Hills Airport. The city is also easily accessible over dustless highways U. S. 385, 85 and 14A.

The economy of Deadwood and its sister city of Lead centers around the Homestake gold mine with its main plant and operations located at Lead. Deadwood also shares in the growing lumber industry of the Black Hills, is the home of a Black Hills Gold Jewelry manufacturing firm, is county seat of Lawrence County, has a forest ranger office in the post office building, the United States District Court meets here twice a year, is a wholesale distributing center and every known retail trade is represented on its streets. Deadwood also has a locally-owned and operated radio station, KDSJ, and a daily newspaper, the "Deadwood Pioneer-Times." Deadwood's Franklin Hotel is a hostelry known nation-wide and the city's motels and cabin camps are of the latest and most modern. It is the convention city of the Black Hills and a mecca for tourists.

Deadwood rates high as an amusement center. The "Days of '76" show is held annually at the Amusement Park the first weekend in August and is one of the largest rodeos in the west. A feature of the show is the three-mile-long historic parade. The Adams Memorial Hall museum, gift of W. E. Adams, pioneer business man, presents pictures and memories of Deadwood's yesteryears. The fast disappearing mementos, records and relics of the past preserved in this museum are priceless. It attracts endless attention of visitors and constitutes a link between pioneer life and

life today. Admission is free. Roosevelt Monument on the summit of Mt. Roosevelt is a 35 feet high structure of native stone built by the Society of Black Hills Pioneers and dedicated to former President Theodore Roosevelt. The Broken Boot Mine on upper Main Street enables this generation to have a glimpse of underground mining as it was practiced in the early years. The Black Hills Chair Lift offers a ride in chairs suspended from a cable to the summit of Terry Peak and is only a ten minute drive from Deadwood. The latest attraction in Deadwood is known as "Ghosts of Deadwood Gulch," consisting of some 80 life-size wax figures portraying Black Hills and Deadwood episodes and characters, dramatizing the eventful years of the community's past. Deadwood is also headquarters for hundreds of sportsmen from everywhere who converge on the Black Hills annually for big game and turkey hunting, trout fishing, skiing and celebrations at nearby cities.

Today Deadwood is a modern city in every respect. A city of beautiful homes, fine churches, excellent schools, public, municipal and fraternal buildings, permanent business blocks, a recreation center with indoor municipal swimming pool, a Carnegie library, a 78-bed hospital, religious, civic and welfare organizations and a live and active Chamber of Commerce. Deadwood considers the past as having taught its lesson, views the present as a time of duty and looks to the future with hope.

John S. McClintock in his book, "Pioneer Days in the Black Hills," says of the Black Hills of which Deadwood is a part:

"Nature gave these Hills foundations of gold and studded them with forests of pine and spruce, and vari-colored trees and shrubs; she reared them into the purest of dry, invigorating airs, laden with the fragrance of the pines and possessed of qualities both pleasant and beneficial; she warmed them with the brightest of sunshine; she gave them a salubrious climate; she pierced their sides and brought forth the murmuring brooks and streams, which she filled with trout of various species. In fact, the Black Hills are a natural playground and sanitarium. It is the land of balm to the sleepless; of strength to the feeble; of rest to the weary; and a joy to all. It is in reality the land of pure delight to the pleasure seekers, the health seekers, the home seekers—for all humanity."

LEAD

by Donald P. Howe

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR, HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY



Historians are, after all, human beings—human beings who are subjected to the same temptations, have the same weaknesses and strengths of character, and sometimes are possessed with the same faulty memories that characterize many of their fellow men. Most of the authors of local history are in almost complete agreement on the majority of important Black Hills historical events. However, sometimes they are as far apart as the north and south poles. For one example of this disparity, some writers recorded that what is now known as the Washington Addition of Lead was the first part of the original town site to be laid out. Others disagree.

Washington or Lead

One of the acknowledged founders of Lead, W. P. Rad-dick, recorded in a valuable historical sketch in 1906 that

“... the ground selected for the site of the new town was between the north and south forks of Gold Run and south of the Homestake and Golden Star mines, this being the only suitable spot upon which to start the foundation of the new city. Foremost in this

movement were James D. Coffin, Frank Judkins, William Quiggley and Robert Jones, better known as 'Smoky' Jones.

"Next in order was the selection of a name for the new city, and after a little discussion the name of 'Lead City' was decided upon, the name being suggested by the lead or lode mines in and around it. On the tenth of July, 1876, some brush was cut and lines run and lots staked off. This work was continued on the eleventh, on which day the work was completed. In the afternoon of that day, the founding party assembled at the camp of 'Smoky' or Robert Jones, which was situated under the spruce and pine trees on ground which is now East Main Street, and between the old First National Bank Building and the Northwestern Depot."

(The present intersection of South Mill and Main Streets, opposite the Open Cut).

"... The personnel assembled in Jones' camp on that July afternoon was as follows: William Quiggley, Frank Judkins, E. Q. Kipplinger, David Snyder, Jasper King, Samuel Parker, James D. Coffin, Robert Waldschmidt, William Baldwin, Jack Daly, Charles Jones, Michael Reddy, John King, W. P. Raddick, Charles DuSette, Robert or 'Smoky' Jones and John Hensy. . . ."

"... After the work in question, the nucleus of Lead was laid out, and then other additions to the city followed. A few weeks afterward Washington was laid out, but by a different party altogether from the Lead locators. Strained relations existed between the two town sites for a number of years, but ultimately Washington came in as an addition to Lead. . . ."

So, Mr. Raddick says, "Lead came first."

Whether Washington Addition came before Lead or Lead before Washington is not necessarily important. What is important is that all historians are in accord on the reason for the establishment of this mining community.

Staking Claims

The reason was *gold*—the age-old metal that has stirred mankind's imagination since the birth of civilization. Gold had been found in placer deposits all along Bobtail and Gold Run Creeks and their branches. (Bobtail Creek drains the Terraville region and flows into Deadwood Creek at Blacktail, and Gold Run Creek begins in Lead and empties into Whitewood Creek at Pluma.)

Gold was also being discovered in quartz out-crops near these streams. Among the quartz claims being taken up and located was the Homestake, discovered by Moses and Fred Manuel and located by their partner, Hank Harney, on the 9th day of April, 1876. Adjoining the Homestake claim were the Golden Star, the Highland, the Giant and Old Abe, the Pierce, the Lincoln, the Independence, the Big Missouri, and several others. The discovery and location of these claims, in close proximity to one another, were in most cases near the forks of Gold Run or a little north.

This fact caused the many miners and prospectors to make camp close together. Their numbers increased daily throughout the spring months of '76. Within a few weeks of that exciting period, a suggestion was made that a town be located, and so "Lead City" came into being. The "city" portion of the name was officially dropped in 1890.

Organizational Meeting

At the July 11, 1876 meeting, a city secretary, Charles Jones, and a recorder, James D. Coffin, were elected. No other officers were named. The group adopted resolutions to the effect that local law of the miners should govern all matters of dispute, as legal status would not be recognized for any type of town government in the pathless wilderness that was still a part of the Sioux Indian nation.

Rules governing the ownership and sale of lots for dwellings and businesses were established. Streets were designated and named. Such street names as Main, Pine, Saunders, Mill, Bleeker, Gold, Wall, Siever and Galena were chosen. Pine and Saunders no longer exist. Street widths were even specified. Adequate then, they became obsolete soon after the advent of the gasoline buggy.

With the feverish mining activity in Lead and nearby, stamp mills to crush the ores from quartz mines were soon erected within the city. There were eleven in number, mostly of 10 stamps each. By July 1878 the Homestake Company was crushing ore from its properties, and Lead City was already proud of its civic progress. A post office, bank, hotels, churches, hospital and many retail businesses were well established. Transportation companies, with pack animals of horses, mules and oxen, made heavy use of the two wagon roads to neighboring Deadwood by way of Poorman Gulch and Washington Addition. (The latter road came out into Gold Run Gulch a little above Pluma.)

From the April day in 1876 when Fred and Moses Manuel and Hank Harney located the Homestake claim on the mountainside in northeast Lead, the mining activity (both surface and underground) made a gigantic excavation that soon became a famous landmark. It is widely known as "The Open Cut." Of the estimated 48 million tons of rock removed, fifteen per cent was ore. The remainder was waste rock used to backfill the mined-out areas in Homestake's

underground operations. Neither waste rock nor ore has been taken from this cut since before World War II, except for a modest amount of ore in latter 1945.

In analyzing Lead's 84-year-old history it becomes obvious that the gold mining camp has experienced certain periods or phases that can be almost arbitrarily divided into distinct categories. First, there was the beginning, a period roughly from 1876 to the middle or late '80's. Then came the growth years to the early 1900's when Lead became South Dakota's second largest city, ranking only behind Sioux Falls. Following this were the pre-World War I years of a stabilized, steadily-employed population. With the onslaught of the first great World War, many neighboring gold mines became unable to survive in the costly, inflationary period and their closures brought widespread unemployment to many citizens of Lead whose livelihood depended upon them. Population which had been reported to be as high as 9,000 and even 10,000 in the early 1900's had dropped to somewhat over 7,000 by 1920.

The "Roaring '20's" and "Dry '30's" were witness to even more dramatic changes in Lead's physical appearance and business and community life. Because of increasing surface subsidence in the region of the Open Cut, the start of the removal of homes, industrial plants and businesses was begun in 1919. This tearing down of what had been the very center of the city took 20 years, and was not completed until 1939.

Shortly thereafter, World War II with its subsequent closing of all United States gold mines wrote a new page to Lead's history. Then with resumption of mining activities at the close of the international struggle, the community entered the phase of its life with which all present inhabitants are well aware.

Gold camps the world over are noted for their short and merry lives. Generally this brevity soon leaves nothing but abandoned buildings, plants and homes populated by memories, rats and chipmunks. Not so with Lead. Its extraordinary mining-camp life of 84 years proves the exception to the rule, and yet it exists only because of one world-famous gold mining operation, the Homestake. Its present-day stable appearance belies the fact that it is still

a mining camp—a camp with 20th century trimmings, unusual in its longevity, its spectacular scenery, and its mountain-side homes but nevertheless a mining camp!

The Beginning

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All communities have "firsts." There has to be a first mayor, a first doctor, a first teacher, a first child born, a first person to die, and so on. Lead is no exception. This publication does not have the space to list all these "first" people, or those who followed, or for that matter, present-day individuals who are continuing to contribute mightily to Lead's history. Instead we present only a few of the early-day prominent personages: merchant P. A. Gushurst; mining men Samuel McMaster and Thomas J. Grier; teacher and banker R. H. Driscoll, public school organizer Frank Abt; mayor Cyrus Enos; doctors D. K. Dickinson and J. W. Freeman. All these men were in or near the "firsts."

Countless others have helped to make Lead history in the field of business enterprise; the professions of education, journalism, law and medicine; the sciences of mining and metallurgy; the politics of government; the humanities of social welfare, and the vocational aptitudes of skilled endeavor. What about those who are playing important roles in the present? Let us leave that to those who come after us!

In Lead's early beginning, legal difficulties in securing titles to land were manifold. After the federal government issued a townsite patent in 1877-78 it was realized locally that federal law forbade the placing of townsites on mineral-bearing land. Suit was brought by the mineral claimants to revoke the townsite patent. The matter was settled by conditional agreement in that the mineral claimants got title to the land and those who had buildings on the land retained the surface titles. Furthermore, the mineral holders agreed to pay for any damage done to property on the surface.

As time went on, Homestake eventually secured nearly all the mineral claims and instead of granting titles they issued "permits." Thus, the mining company's mineral rights were protected and private persons were able to construct businesses and dwellings without complicated legal entanglements.



Photo by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company

Lead in the 1880's, showing South and North Mill streets and South Bleeker Street, South Mill and Bleeker extending from the middle of the picture to the upper left corner, North Mill from the middle to the lower right corner. Almost all of the buildings in the lower half of the photo have been moved or destroyed by 1960.

Lead around 1910, showing Chicago & North Western railroad trestle on lower Main street. Homestake superintendent's house is at upper center left, a building built in the time of Superintendent T. J. Grier (1884-1914).

Photo by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company



Construction of business buildings, residences, and industrial plants in the beginning years was strictly with lumber and timber. However, in 1880 the Hearst Mercantile Company opened "The Brick Store," an imposing structure 60 feet by 200 feet and three stories high. Shortly thereafter another brick building was constructed. It belonged to Ernest May.

A great number of residents kept cows, chickens, horses and pigs. The "Lead City Tribune" reported in August 1886 that a cholera epidemic was killing off many pigs and some were dying in the streets. This practice of raising livestock and poultry within the city did not completely die out until well into the 20th century.

That same year, 1886, the number of visitors inspecting Homestake operations without guides was sufficient to cause orders to be issued to admit no one without a pass.

The Growth

Historians generally agree that the town grew rapidly. It was up to approximately 1,500 people in 1878. By 1890 there were 3,000 inhabitants, 6 churches and 400 students in the public school system. The census of 1900 showed 6,210 persons, or almost 3,000 more than in any other Black Hills town. Much of this population surge was because of the considerable immigration of foreign-born workers and their families.

At first, for a few years, mostly Irish, Scotch and English names were to be found in the young mining camp. By the late 1880's and particularly in the '90's, there was an influx of a wide variety of nationalities. The Cornish, Italians, Croatians, Serbs, Finns, Swedes and Norwegians arrived in substantial numbers. Most came directly from their homelands, but some Cornish and Finnish people moved here from the mining and timbering country of upper Michigan.

These people brought their respective cultures and customs, all of which contributed strongly to the universal flavor of this fast-growing mining town. Lead wasn't large enough to allow these groups to singularly congregate in distinct and separate colonies. This mixing, with the many intermarriages that have followed, stamp the present population of Lead as truly cosmopolitan.

All these nationality groups were organization conscious, and Lead had more fraternal, religious, civic and social groups and societies by 1900 than any town of comparable size anywhere. The 1900 number far exceeds the organizations that exist in the community today. For example, by 1886 there was a highly successful amateur theatrical group known as the Lead City Dramatic Club. A rifle club was active in 1888; and the first annual Labor Day picnic on September 3, 1888, attended by 2,000 persons, featured a free train ride to the site, where dancing, eating, speech making, and the playing of games were the major activities.

This pre-1900 era also saw the steady construction of stone and brick buildings and homes, the installation of telegraph lines and a telephone system, the coming of electric light and power, and the demise of windmills, wells and private sewage facilities.

The most exciting, terrifying and damaging event in this period was the devastating fire on March 8, 1900 which destroyed one-fourth of the city's business establishments. The first flames were spotted coming from the butcher shop of J. K. Searle very early that morning. With the fire jumping some buildings and quickly engulfing others, it spread rapidly to the northeast. Fire fighters dynamited some buildings to check the fire's progress. By 9:00 a.m. it was under control.

The Stable Period

Stability was the keynote of the 1900-1918 era when the gold mines surrounding Lead were operating at their peak and Homestake was steadily producing gold. One exception to this was the labor dispute between the Western Federation of Miners and Homestake which idled the operations from November 24, 1909 until March 3, 1910. The issue was over the union's demands for a closed shop. The company had operated from the very beginning on an open-shop basis. Since that latter date Homestake has operated as a non-union organization.

Civic improvements steadily continued throughout these years. It was November 10, 1902, when the first contract for paving was let, and North Mill and all of Main Street from Mill Street to Glover's Hill were surfaced with vitrified brick.

On May 1, 1912, the commission form of city government replaced the aldermanic type, and on February 5, 1914, a paid fire department replaced the volunteers.

Homestake opened its free recreation center and library in 1914 to the public. Three cinemas vied for the patronage of the citizenry, while traveling stock companies and home talent shows were interspersed. Automobiles began to huff and puff around the hillsides. The Burlington trolley and Northwestern trains did a booming passenger business between Lead and Deadwood. Gambling establishments and bawdy houses continued to be countenanced. Yet, inconsistently enough, cultural and respectable social activities were at an all-time high.

With the thunderous clouds of World War I exploding, inflation reared its ugly head and most of the gold producers in the hinterland were forced to close, thereby causing considerable unemployment, and a drop in population followed.

The great world-wide influenza epidemic of 1918 also brought tragedy to many families in Lead, with 94 deaths recorded in the city from October 11 to December 29—17 of these having been brought from nearby points. Three Lead residents died in a Deadwood hospital. All in all, an estimated 2,000 citizens were afflicted.

The "Roaring '20's"

After the tumult of the great World War had died down, and the American people had been introduced to women's suffrage and prohibition, Lead joined all of America in a splashy entrance into the jazz age of the 1920's.

The continuing enlargement of the Open Cut and the imperfect backfilling results in the higher levels of the Homestake Mine, combined to cause noticeable surface subsidence in and near the very center of Lead's business district. Foundations of buildings were cracking, utility and sewage lines were parting, and in the interests of safety it was necessary to begin evacuating and razing all structures in the area. This operation started in 1919 and was a more or less continual process for 20 years. By 1939 the physical appearance of the heart of Lead was almost entirely different because of this.

Famous old Homestake plants were torn down. Outstanding business structures such as "The Brick Store," the



LEAD, SOUTH DAKOTA 1960

Landmarks easily identifiable are the old Black Hills & Fort Pierre Railroad roundhouse, lower left, now used as a city street equipment storage building; center right, the flat topped building is the new Lead Armory; extreme upper right, the Ross hoist shaft; upper center, the Yates hoist shaft; the labyrinth of streets in lower left corner is at the top of Glover's Hill with 10 streets going in various directions.

*Photo by Don Howe, by courtesy
of Homestake Mining Company*



First National Bank building, the Smead Hotel, Cotton and Andrews building, and many more were demolished. The trolley line to Deadwood was discontinued. A new bank building was erected on the foundations of the old Miners Union building at Main and Wall Streets. A new store building was constructed to house the Hearst Mercantile Company's many departments. This became the largest retail operation of its kind in South Dakota. The Protestant Episcopal Church had been torn down on this same site to make way for the store. It was then rebuilt, brick by brick, at Main and Paul Streets. Homestake remodeled and enlarged its hospital. A new modern fire-proof 40-room hotel was opened to the public.

The biggest celebration in the mining camp's history was the Golden Jubilee held on August 6 and 7, 1926 which commemorated a half-century of Homestake operations. A site in Poorman Gulch (now Glendale Drive) was transformed into a pioneer mining town with adjoining pageant grounds. Several thousand persons attended the events, in which hundreds took an active part.

Population remained fairly steady, and in 1925 was estimated 7,000-plus persons. By that time Lead had already been passed in size by neighboring Rapid City. It was still considerably larger than the other communities of the Black Hills, however.

The "Dry '30's"

This decade was to witness great changes in Lead and its major industry, Homestake. For one thing, the entire country and a good share of the world plunged into a severe economic depression which had been preceded by the New York Stock Market collapse in late 1929. In addition to depression, the great plains states entered into a lengthy period of drouth which lasted for several years. Dust storms, locust invasions, agricultural and business failures; all were widespread.

With the devaluation of many countries' currencies, gold became more and more in demand. The world price made significant gains. All these changing economic conditions influenced gold mining everywhere. Homestake started a program of modernizing the plants in the operation, thereby creating extra employment. Lead was witness to a stream of unemployed job seekers who arrived regularly from miles around.

The Congress of the United States enacted the Federal Gold Reserve Act in January 1934. Among many other provisions, the Act (1) took away all citizens' right to use gold coins as legal tender; (2) raised, but fixed, the selling price of gold at a set level; and (3) forced all American gold producers to sell to only *one* customer. All this affected Lead. It became an oasis in an economic desert. Here there were jobs that were steady, that were insured and that were desirable. The town boomed. For this reason and because old buildings were still being razed of necessity, construction of new homes and business establishments was heavy. Paving of many streets (of which Lead now has close to 30 miles) was widescale.

The Grier and Wayland buildings came into being on West Main Street and provided space for several businesses and apartments for about 100 families. The school district started construction of a beautiful junior and senior high school. Enrollment in the public high school reached an all-time peak by 1940 of 640 students. (For 1959-60 it was about 450.)

With Hitler's ominous war clouds already raining death and destruction by 1940, Lead was "leveling off." The gold industry was still prosperous, but the boom was on the downgrade. Then, when the draft, the call for reservists and national guardsmen in 1940-41 indicated that the United States was most apprehensive about involvement in war, the curtain on the stage of a new chapter in Lead's history was about to be raised.

World War II

Pearl Harbor put us directly into war, and manpower speedily left former occupations for military service or war goods production. In October 1942, all United States gold mining was suspended by the federal government order. Homestake milled some already-mined ore in early 1943, but with the exception of war contracts in the mechanical shops and lumbering divisions, the mine was silent. Lead men of military age were rapidly entering service. Others moved to civilian work in military installations, to the airplane factories, and to the shipyards. Lead's population was reliably estimated to have reached a low point of approximately 3,000 persons in 1944, and most of those were women and children.

House after house was left intact, with furniture and fixtures remaining in place, but with all the windows boarded and nailed shut. This was probably the only community in the United States that had the exact opposite of a wartime housing shortage.

By July 2, 1945, the order suspending United States gold operations had been revoked, and Homestake once again started to mine and mill ore. Production of gold was but a trickle in the second half of 1945, and it was not until 1950 that Homestake employment and gold production were back to pre-war normals.

The Present

What might be called in general terms, the present, started with the end of World War II. A majority of families returned to Lead. A considerable number did not. This gave young men from elsewhere the opportunity to secure employment and establish residences. Suddenly the town that had too many houses found itself without enough. One reason was that some of the older privately owned rental units had become obsolete and unlivable. Also, many retired workers continued to live in their own residences rather than moving to sunny California. To alleviate this situation, Homestake built six apartment buildings with 55 units, remodeled one former office building into apartments, constructed ten single family dwellings and sold them at cost to employees. The company also guaranteed countless house loans to veterans where title restrictions were imposed by the government.

Even so, the town did not reach its previous population level, partly because of the modern sociological trend of people to live in the rural areas or in neighboring communities, and commute daily to and from their work. Another contributing cause was that Homestake mining and milling operations require somewhat fewer men than in the heavy construction era of the 1930's. South Dakota's only other gold producer, the Bald Mountain Mining Company, ceased operations in 1959. Many of their 100 employees lived in Lead. All these factors perhaps explain why the 1950 census was 6,422 persons (1,000 less than 1940), and the preliminary count for 1960 shows only 6,180 persons now living in Lead.



Photo by Don Howe, 1960, used by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company

The famous Open Cut was once a solid mountain (before the Manuel brothers and Hank Harney located the Homestake claim on April 9, 1876). It is viewed with great interest by visitors, and hardly noticed by the natives. Eighty, sixty, forty, and even thirty years ago, much mining activity took place in it and many hoists, mills and shops bordered it. A good portion of Lead's business district ran right up to it. It has been a quiet region since before World War II.

Slowly, almost imperceptibly, the appearance of both Lead's Main Street and residential areas changed somewhat after World War II. The vitrified brick which had covered Lead's Main Street since 1902 was taken up in 1947. It was replaced by concrete, which was then covered by asphalt a few years later. Automobile parking lots were established in the residential areas as well as in the business district. Trees, shrubs, etc., grew astonishingly as evidenced by comparing photos around town, particularly in the Sinking Gardens area, a small park developed on the subsiding lands near the Open Cut. The 1942 fire-caused vacancy where a drug store and the big "Brick Store" had been located was filled with new store buildings in 1955 and 1957. The Highland Hotel became the Gold Run Inn in 1960, after considerable remodeling and refurbishing. A new public grade school and an addition to another were completed. St. Patrick's, a parochial high school, operated from 1950 until its closing in 1958.

The town became more recreation conscious with nearby skiing, fishing, boating and picnicking facilities instituted or improved. A local tax-supported juvenile recreation program was adopted. Space for a few neighborhood playgrounds was found. Tennis courts and a beginners' ski slope were created. Supervised instruction in swimming, skiing, baseball, etc., were a major part of the program. Homestake completely modernized its free recreation center and library in 1949-50.

The spectacular mountain-top athletic field, once known by local and visiting athletes as the "rock pile," was re-designed and sodded in 1948. A few years later it was brilliantly lighted for nighttime events. A new band shell and enlarged Homestake tourist headquarters were placed opposite the Open Cut. A television transmitting tower and two booster towers, plus countless private antennas now dot the ridges and mountainsides.

Philosophers, scientists and historians all agree that nothing stands still, changes occur constantly. This all-inclusive list include communities, and despite the superficial first appearance to those who return to Lead after absences of some duration, Lead has changed, is changing, and will continue to change.

In this brief history, we have touched only a few of the more important developments and periods in the life of Lead, one of America's most unusual communities. The existence of Lead in the future, as throughout its past, is tied solely to what happens to the glamorous fixed-selling price metal, gold. Astute students of history point out that gold has always been with civilized mankind, and that it always will be. True, no doubt, but the question of Lead's future is more one of economics than of ore exhaustion. How long can Homestake, the only surviving large straight gold producer in the United States, continue if this devastating inflation rolls on and no market price change for gold is instituted?

The answer to that question will provide the answer to: Where goest Lead?





Photo by courtesy of James Jelbert

The cabin owned by Mrs. Tom (Nanny) Lutey was one of the earliest cabins in Central City, date of photo 1894. On porch from left to right: Dick Jelbert, Jim Lutey, unidentified, W. J. Friggen sitting, Jack Lutey, William John Jelbert, William Newton. Mrs. Lutey at extreme right beyond porch.

William Oates barn, 1878, on site of 1st street in Central

Photo by courtesy of James Jelbert



CENTRAL CITY

by S. Goodale Price



Central City, just a few miles up the gulch from Deadwood, slumbers in the mountain sunshine, dreaming of glamorous gold rush days in the 1880's when she was the metropolis of the Black Hills—the gold mining center of the region and the richest, wildest, rootin' tootin', hell raising town in the entire west.

Perhaps during the siesta that Central City is enjoying today she is gathering strength for a revival of gold mining that will surely come when dear old Uncle Sam decides to replenish his nearly depleted treasury by adding a few shekles to the present basic gold value.

Without a doubt, safely locked in the mountains surrounding Central, there exist vast deposits of precious metals that would make the Fort Knox hoard look like the pennies in baby's piggy bank. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that in some future day Central City will again hear the welcome roar of ore mills and the thunder of dynamite blasts as busy mines bring forth a golden harvest from the mineral veins of the Central District.

Even before a revival of mining revitalizes the district, Central City may become a famous tourist attraction when restored to its original appearance and atmosphere. Certainly the colorful background of Central City offers great possibilities for such a project.

During the years from 1876 through the early '80's, the Central District comprised several small communities in Deadwood Gulch including Central City, Golden Gate, Terraville, Gayville, South Bend, Blacktail and Anchor City. The best records available indicate the population of the gulch was around 3,100 persons.

The name "Central City" originated in 1877 when I. Skidmore arrived in the camp from Central City, Colorado. At a camp gathering, Skidmore influenced the miners to name the camp Central City after the booming Colorado gold town.

During its heyday, there were four newspapers published in Central: the "Herald," 1877-81, J. S. Bartholomew, editor; the "Champion," 1877, Charles Collins, editor; the "Enterprise," 1881-82, T. J. Webster, editor; and the "Black Hills Register," 1885. It is unfortunate for historians that most of the copies of these pioneer newspapers were destroyed by the fires and floods that ravaged the gulch.

It seems the Central City region has been a bit neglected on the pages of written history, yet there is no region in the west with a more fantastic background. This writer knew personally many of the pioneers of the Central mining district. With the limited pages allotted him, it is a bit difficult to set forth the story of Central City just as he heard it from many original sources. The pioneers tell of gold claims often changing hands several times a day; buying and selling lodes and leases as casually as swapping jack-knives; the gold-mad atmosphere of the camp reverberating with the melodious voices of steam whistles on thundering ore mills; the roar of dynamite blasts; rumbling ore wagons with squeaking brakes; wild shouts and pistol shots; the tap-tap of heavy miners' boots on plank walks; buckskin pokes bulging with yellow metal that purchased beans, bacon, blasting powder and whiskey!

Even the bleary eyed swamper, sweeping the sawdust from the barroom floor, filled his poke from the carelessly spilled gold dust that the reckless miner poured on the bar in exchange for a shot of red-eye.

That was the atmosphere of Central City in its heyday. The camp boasted twenty odd saloons, blocks of rooming houses and restaurants, several large general stores, barber shops and drug stores (this writer's uncles owned one drug store with six busy clerks and an ornate soda fountain as long as a lariat rope). The camp's plush hotel, "The Shannon House," was the scene of a tragic murder that proved the age-old triangle love affairs were as bad medicine in the early years as in modern times; also that all western characters who carried six-shooters were not such dead shots as our TV quick draw heroes of today. It would seem their targets had to be close-up shots.

The story of the Shannon shooting goes about like this: landlord Shannon suspected his pretty young wife of playing around with a camp dude, Mr. Giddings. The climax to the affair came in the hotel lobby when Shannon, after oiling up his rusty six-shooters, met Giddings face to face. He opened fire, whereupon the dude dashed out a side door. Shannon followed, firing at every step. About everything was hit but the racing dude. Windows and mirrors crashed to the carpet. The dude dashed around to the front door and in through the lobby where the trembling guests were huddled under the furniture. One brave onlooker attempted to stop the foot race.

Shannon shouted, "Don't try to stop me, Jack!"

Firing point blank, Shannon's shot killed his best friend Jack. The deadly merry-go-round continued until the exhausted Giddings stumbled, and with his next to last bullet, Shannon shot him through the heart. His rival finished off to his satisfaction, Shannon fired a fatal bullet into his own heart with the remark as he died, "Boys, bring me a glass of whiskey. I'm sorry I killed my best friend Jack, so I deserve this end."

Several other episodes of those wild days which Central City witnessed during its gold rush period include the shooting of young miner Forbes by Bill Gay (the camp of Gayville was named after this character). Bill was a better shot than Shannon and downed his man with the first shot, for reasons similar to the Shannon affair. At the subsequent trial Gay was given a long prison term. Very shortly after he entered prison, he was given an official pardon and returned to Central City riding in the sheriff's fancy surrey

behind a pair of high stepping horses. Leading the parade up Main Street, Bill doffed his Stetson to the welcoming crowds as the brass band played with special flourishes, "She was only a bird in a gilded cage." The gala homecoming ended with a free lunch and drinks at Patsy Carr's "Refreshment Parlor."

Old Jack Gray loved the clicking ivory balls and the round green baize poker tables. He owned one saloon and a big rooming house as well as many rich mining claims, which kept him pretty busy. Late one night he returned home after a long poker session during which he ran out of cash and pledged his mining claims against a bonanza saloon of the district. Jack won. He came home with the title to the saloon in his pocket.

His wife asked him, "Jack, couldn't you get enough to drink in your own saloon?"

Jack never took another drink.

The early years were not all hilarity in the Central City district. Men labored hard at the dangerous mining work; women cooked long hours of the day, washed and scrubbed far into the night; industry was everywhere.

The bonanza DeSmet stamp mill, adjacent to Central City, operated as an important factor in the history of the famous Homestake. In later years this fabulous gold producer was known as the Mineral Point. Its manager, Richard Blackstone, was a close friend of this writer and often entertained him in the spacious residence in Central.

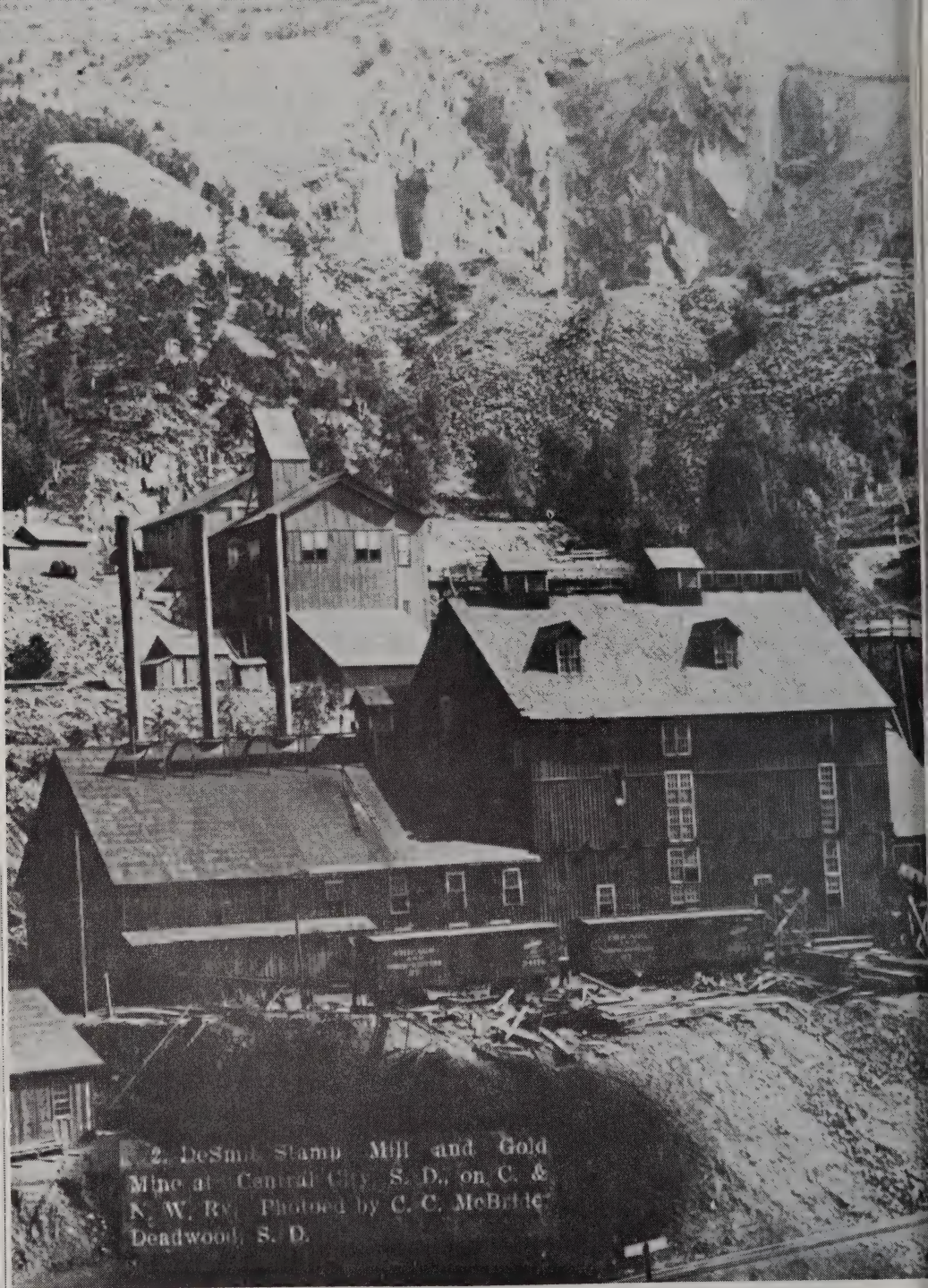
Quoting from an article in the "Lead Daily Call," written by Mr. Blackstone in 1916, we learn:

"The original Homestake claim was only 150 feet wide, 75 feet on the crevice and 1,350 feet long. . . Prior to 1900 the Deadwood Terra hoisted many thousands of tons of ore through the shaft located at the northeast corner of the open cut in Terraville. This shaft was operated by the Homestake and was known as 'Old Brig.' . . . The early Homestake open cut system was simple and gave millions of tons of good ore at a minimum cost of mining. The Deadwood mine, to the north of the Golden Terra, was worked altogether in open cut with no covering to move or strip in its early workings, with a great body of fine ore above its tramway level, cheaply broken down into loading chutes . . . A part of the Father DeSmet presented a more difficult problem. Under a cap of porphyry the stopes had to be supported with heavy square cut timber that often caved. In one instance the cave-in occurred with such violence that the men were blown by the compressed air from the side drifts . . . Imagine an ore body such as that in the Father DeSmet chute standing 150 to 400 feet above the valley floor, all exposed and practically free from covering."

That cliff of gold overlooked Central City. Almost as fantastic was the nearby Otto P. Grantz's Hidden Fortune mine, today a Homestake property. Here Grantz took a fabulous fortune from raw gold almost at the grass roots. Mr. Grantz showed this writer a dinner bucket full of jewelry quartz shot so full of wire gold one could pick it out with a pen knife. This occurred as Mr. Grantz was strolling down Lead's Main street to the assay office. He was carrying his bucket of gold as casually as though it contained a left-over ham sandwich.

Little wonder Central City's past was so colorful. Besides the Homestake's profitable operation, the other nearby large producing mines included the Columbus, Columbus Consolidated, Gladiator or Cutting, Montezuma, Deadwood, Golden Gate, a dozen rich placer diggings, and just yonder up the hills, the Maitland Penobscot mills were pounding. Up Terry Peak way, the mountains were alive with activity.

Gold mining was, of course, the main industry of early Central City. There were, however, other important activities in the town. A large brewery was built by William Rosenkranz and Schlichting to convert the pure mountain spring water into the famous Gold Nugget beer. This sparkling beverage was a favorite drink all over the early west. Central City was the scene of the starting of one of the most unique industries in America. The story of Black Hills gold jewelry is a legend in itself. In 1876 J. B. LeBau (LeBeaux) and King brought the pattern for this beautiful jewelry from the mother lode country of California to Central City and started a small manufactory. Two years later, Charles Barclay set up a jewelry shop in Central City, and S. T. Butler came from Virginia City, Montana, with other basic patterns to continue the manufacture. Butler was the grandfather of George Butler, well-known Deadwood business man, and of the late Frank Thorpe. Through four generations, the Thorpe family has continued to fabricate this now famous product. Today their factory is operating in Deadwood under the management of Charles Waters, husband of Louise Thorpe, making it one of the very few businesses in the country that has survived through four generations of a family. Barclay continued the jewelry business in Central City until 1886 when he moved to Lead, where he remained ten years before leaving the Black Hills to live permanently in Newport News, Virginia.



2. DeSmet Stamp Mill and Gold Mine at Central City, S. D., on C. & N. W. Ry. Photoed by C. C. McBride, Deadwood, S. D.

Photo by C. C. McBride, Deadwood, S. D.
Used by courtesy of Wm. L. Rosenkranz
DeSmet Stamp Mill and Gold Mine at Central City on C.&N.W. Ry.
Date after 1903

Several factors entered into the decline of Central City from the busiest metropolis of the Black Hills to the little mountain village of today, with its quiet streets, modern school and several lovely homes surrounded by flowers, shaded lawns and venerable trees. Its population today is counted at 227 law-abiding citizens.

As the Homestake operation moved southward over the hill into Gold Run gulch and the present site of Lead, the Central District began to lose population. Natural disasters struck several severe blows.

The great flood of 1883 swept down Deadwood Creek to destroy many of the buildings. The rich placer mines along the creek with their sluice boxes, rockers and tools were buried under thousands of tons of rough boulders and broken timber. An eye witness to this flood told of one miner, Bender, in his vain effort to save his tools, waded into the swirling waters toward his mine. A wall of debris-laden water engulfed him, sweeping him to his death. Days afterward, his broken body was found miles downstream.

Five years after the camp was wrecked by the flood another tragedy struck a vicious blow. This time it was fire, the dread foe of all pioneers. A French chef, Bellevue, often delighted the miners with his fancy cooking. In the spring of 1888, while frying some very special venison steaks, the grease flared up. The temperamental Frenchman flung the flaming pan across the kitchen and dashed out the back door. He kept running with never a backward look. (Perhaps he is running yet.) In a matter of minutes the flames spread from the restaurant to surrounding buildings and half of the town was in flames. Lucky for Frenchie that he never did return to view the result of his temperamental mood. The following year Central City organized a fire department and soon had a prize-winning hose cart team.

The splendid bronze fire bell that hung atop their hose house has been preserved and may be seen today in the Central City school yard. It bears this inscription: "C. and G. Hose No. 1, organized Central City, Dakota, April 25th 1889 one year after the great fire."

From the cherished scrap book of yesteryear we find the time-yellowed clippings recording many divergencies of opinions as to historical events of the Central District. One writer states that the first cabin was built in 1877 by William



Photo by Mildred Fielder

Central City, South Dakota, looking down Main Street. July 1960. The very small building in the center of the picture is the postoffice.

Lardner and E. McKay; another record indicates Alfred Gay built the first cabin in 1876 at Gayville. Following are interesting quotes from the scrap book. "The first business houses opened in 1877—four lawyers and six doctors opened their offices early in 1877." (How many undertakers is not stated.) "The first school house was built in 1877 but was burned to the ground in the great fire."

It is related that this first school was the scene of a major free-for-all fight over a lead pencil; lead pencils were scarce. Erasers, ink bottles and books were thrown; noses were bloodied and eyes were blackened. The school bully got the lead pencil and the teacher was fired. Today Central City boasts a fine modern public school in full operation, built in 1938.

Judge Davis Ogden held the first religious service in the Central District in 1877. In 1877 the Methodists and Congregationalists built neat little churches. The following year the Catholics organized and built their first church.

After all these long years Central City has emerged a stable, down to earth, solvent community in spite of all her devastating floods, fires and folding gold mines. It is an inspiration to review a balanced budget such as the following July 1960 Clerk's and Treasurer's Report showing its present financial condition:

CLERK'S AND TREASURER'S REPORT
TOWN OF CENTRAL CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA
January 2, 1960 to July 1, 1960

RECEIPTS

Balance on Hand January 2, 1960	\$4,531.62
Liquor Tax	\$252.51
Rent	575.00
Motor Vehicle Tax	260.27
Other Sources	99.35
Fines	9.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1,196.13
	\$5,727.75

DISBURSEMENTS

Cash on Hand July 1, 1960	\$4,295.89
Water	\$ 12.00
Hall and Street Lights	398.54
Heat	73.07
Labor	65.08
Salaries	172.00
Postage, Box Rent, Office Supplies, etc.	25.46
Legal Fees, Bonds and Insurance	136.50
Repairs on Building	92.79
Streets and Roads	92.81
Publishing	31.26
Police	92.28
Truck and Truck Expense	3.00
Social Security	13.18
Snow Removal	13.08
City Clean-Up	87.50
Board of Equalization	90.00
Supplies	8.31
Telephone (Fire Department)	25.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	1,431.86
	\$5,727.75

TOTAL CASH RESOURCES

Cash on Hand July 1, 1960	\$4,295.89
Government Bonds	2,257.00
	\$6,552.89

This \$4,295.89 is deposited in the First National Bank of the Black Hills, Deadwood, S. Dak., in the name of the Town of Central City.

SHIRLEY WATERLAND, Clerk
M. LOUISE HOLLOWAY, Treasurer

We, the Trustees of the Town of Central City, S. Dak., find this report to be true and correct and it is hereby approved.

ELMER SORENSEN, President of the Board
EARL HOFFMAN, Trustee
EDWARD McDERMOTT, Trustee

July 20, 1960

It is indeed a revelation to visit today with the home folks of Central City. They are a friendly, hospitable people living without sham, hurry, or pressure. No "keeping up with the Jones's" here. They take time to visit, hunt, and fish. Many have interesting hobbies. Typical are Julius Johnson with his unique woods crafts and Jim Hill, who, 84 years young, actively carries on rock collecting and polishing. Jim loves to visit and tells most interesting tales of his hobby. One of his many stories goes like this:

"For many years I used as a door stop, a rock from the edge of the road. One day a prospector came along and after a glance at the rock, said, 'Jim, there's a piece of high grade—let's crack it.' A tap or two with my sledge and there was revealed to us a two and three-quarter ounce pure gold nugget shaped exactly like a little kettle with three legs and a handle."

Yes, gold is where you find it!

Stepping into the present post office is like stepping back into the pioneer days. Elsie Stephens, a real pioneer of Central City, was former postmistress. Elsie retired several years ago. Mrs. Louise Holloway, the present postmistress, is a pioneer in her own right. She handles Uncle Sam's mail efficiently as well as maintaining a nice lending library. She is a lover of flowers and the post office windows are resplendent with lovely geraniums.

With modern schools, neat churches, and a balanced budget, Central City may well hold her head high and proud as a model little mountain village.

SPEARFISH

by James D. Jelbert

VICE PRESIDENT, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF THE BLACK HILLS, SPEARFISH



It is not difficult to understand why Spearfish has come to be known as the "Queen City" of the Black Hills. Nestling against the northern edge of the hills at the point where beautiful Spearfish Creek flows out of scenic Spearfish Canyon, and with picturesque Crow Peak, Spearfish Mountain and Lookout Mountain surrounding the town on three sides, Spearfish presents an attitude of quiet peace and tranquillity, which no doubt accounts in large measure for the fact that in recent years it has become increasingly attractive as a place for retirement for older people from the entire area of western South Dakota.

Although the formal historical account of Spearfish indicates that its settlement began in the year 1876, its actual historical narrative begins some forty years earlier, scratched with a pocketknife on a piece of flat sandstone approximately twelve inches square. Now known as the Thoen Stone described in an earlier chapter, it tells the brief but dramatic story of what were in all probability the first white men to visit the area now occupied by Spearfish.

It was not until 1876 that the white man wrote the next important chapter in the history of the Spearfish area. It was in January of that year that a group known as "the Centennial party," was organized in Ames, Iowa, for the purpose of exploring the Black Hills area. Consisting of fourteen men, the party left Ames in March of the same year, following the Elkhorn route to the Black Hills under the captaincy of John Johnston. Six members, including the leader, finally reached the Spearfish area in July of 1876, and are responsible for having given the name "Centennial Prairie" to the familiar area a few miles east of Spearfish which still bears that name.

The leader of the Centennial party, John Johnston, was among the first to settle in the area at the head of Spearfish valley. It is claimed by some that James Butcher was the first actual settler in the area. He is reputed to have built a cabin on the present site of Spearfish but was soon driven off by hostile Indians. Another tradition, verified by witnesses living at the time, was that "Colorado Jack" had also located in the valley at about that time, but he too was driven off by the Indians.

In May 1876 a company was formed in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, for the purpose of locating lands in the fertile valley of Spearfish Creek. This group also encountered hostility at the hands of the Indians and was forced to withdraw. However, Otto Uhlig, who was apparently the prime mover of the group, later returned and joined the Montana Colony which arrived in the valley in the same month. Uhlig located land adjoining the original townsite location, an area now known as Uhlig's Addition to the city of Spearfish.

At about the same time Joseph Ramsdell located in the area which has since been designated as Ramsdell's Addition to the city of Spearfish.

Early chronicles indicate that there were two claimants to the townsite location: the Gay party and the Smith party, each of which claimed priority. Following a heated discussion the two parties apparently united into one large townsite company, and on May 29, 1876, Spearfish townsite was laid out on the beautiful banks of the stream from which it later derived its name.

The site was surveyed and platted by H. S. Burke with the aid of a pocket compass, and among the original stockholders of the townsite company were Alfred Gay and J. E. Smith, heads of their respective parties.

In 1877 the original 640 acre tract was resurveyed by E. E. Fine and streets were defined and numbered. The streets ran from one to twenty-seven north and south, and from A to S east and west. Having ample room for expansion, provision was made for the spacious streets and alleys which still characterize Spearfish.

In 1878 a government survey was made by a surveyor named Scott, and the townsite tract was then found to lie in parts of sections ten and fifteen, township six, north, range two east, of the Black Hills meridian. At this time it also developed that the population of the town did not entitle it to more than 320 acres. Consequently the smaller area was surveyed and platted, and on January 27, 1879, was recorded in the United States Land Office in Deadwood. Since then several additions have been made which have greatly increased the original area.

The first structure built on the site was a log cabin erected by the townsite company. More individual cabins were quickly added, but by early September, 1876, it became obvious that the struggling young community would have to take decisive action to protect itself against attack from the Indians who were boldly raiding the surrounding countryside even to the borders of the town.

The settlers therefore determined to build a stockade and the plan was immediately put into execution. Four sturdy log cabins were built, approximately one hundred feet apart, forming the corners of the square stockade. Log enclosures, complete with embrasures, were formed between the cabins to complete the structure. The cabins themselves were used to house provisions and munitions. With this stockade for protection the settlers successfully defended themselves against Indian attacks through the winter of 1876-77, in spite of perpetual harassment from the tribes concentrated along the northern edge of the Black Hills.

The year 1877 brought the quieting of the Sioux title and the cessation of Indian hostilities. With the passing of this danger and accompanying uncertainties, Spearfish began its

slow but steady growth. Many early settlers were attracted to the area by the fertile agricultural lands surrounding the townsite. Others saw in the never-failing water supply of Spearfish Creek the potential of industrial and commercial growth.

In 1877 the first store was opened in Spearfish, and the year saw the establishment of a United States postoffice. These first indications of growth and stability were quickly followed by the establishment of a sawmill, blacksmith shop, and livery stable. In the same year, 1877, W. W. Bradley opened a law office and had the distinction of performing the first marriage ceremony in the new community.

A private school was also opened in 1877, taught by Miss Pettigrew, and during the following year the first religious services were performed in Spearfish by the Reverend George Reed, a Methodist minister. The Congregational society was organized in 1879 and a frame church building erected by this group was used jointly for church and school purposes.

By 1878 Spearfish had its first drug store, operated by George Stotts, and also boasted a practicing physician, Dr. J. M. Louthan. The Spearfish Public School District was organized in the fall of that year, the first term of the public school taught by Mrs. R. H. Evans in a log cabin with an attendance of fourteen pupils.

By 1881 plans were already underway for the erection of a large public school building, which was finally completed in 1889 at a cost of \$5,000. This building continued to serve thousands of Spearfish students in the capacity of an elementary school until 1952 when it was demolished to make way for the new modern elementary school building.

In 1882 a private banking institution was established by Stebbins, Fox and Company, with J. F. Summers as its first cashier. This same institution was later chartered under the territorial laws in 1887 under the title of the Bank of Spearfish, a predecessor to the Spearfish office of the First National Bank of the Black Hills which still serves the community.

Spearfish continued to grow throughout the 1880's, and by the time the 1890 census was taken it boasted a population of 671. Further growth was anticipated in view of the

great interest which had by then developed in the possibility of establishing a federal fish hatchery in or near the community. As early as 1893 the Federal Commission looked with favor on this location, but it was not until 1896 that Congress appropriated \$10,000 for the purpose. The fish hatchery was built in 1899, and since that time has supplied millions of trout to stock Black Hills streams and lakes.

Another boost to the growing community came shortly after the 1890 census when it was rumored that a railroad would be brought to Spearfish. Work was begun, and in 1893 an extension of the Burlington line from Deadwood reached Spearfish by way of Spearfish Canyon. Originally developed for the purpose of bringing ore from the many mines along the route into Spearfish for processing, this line later became one of the outstanding scenic attractions in the northern hills area.

With the coming of the railroad, a chlorination plant for the processing of gold ore was erected in Spearfish, and the industrial prospects of the town boomed. The Hay Creek coal mines were opening in nearby Wyoming and visionary businessmen saw great possibilities of other rail lines being established into Spearfish to bring coal to what many thought would develop into the ore processing center of the Black Hills.

Many of the mining ventures which were begun with such high expectations, however, were short-lived, and by 1894 it became apparent that the boom was not going to develop. The publishers of the "Spearfish Daily Bulletin" significantly noted that they would have to suspend publication because they could no longer make expenses.

If Spearfish was not destined to become an industrial center, it did seem assured of stability and growth as a scenic and cultural center. In the same year, 1894, that the daily newspaper ceased publication, the Spearfish Normal Alumni Association was formed on the occasion of the seventh annual commencement exercises. The Spearfish Normal School, since integrated into the state system for higher education as Black Hills State Teachers College, has shown a steady growth in enrollment and facilities until today it is one of the outstanding teachers' colleges in the state.



Photo by courtesy of the Black Hills Teachers College

Spearfish, date believed to be in the early 1900's. The two-story brick building at left of picture is the public school building built in 1889. Fish hatchery, center front, was built in 1899.

Far-sighted citizens also realized that, situated as it was at the mouth of beautiful Spearfish Canyon, Spearfish enjoyed many remarkable scenic advantages. As early as 1897 the town petitioned the Lawrence County Commission to construct a roadway through Spearfish Canyon, but it was not until many years later in 1930 that the highway was completed which is today regarded by many as one of the most beautiful scenic drives in the Black Hills.

By the time the 1900 census was taken the population of Spearfish had almost doubled, showing a population of 1,106.

In the years since the turn of the century the city has shown a steady upward growth, and yet at the same time has preserved its atmosphere of calm tranquillity which is so appealing to visitors. The railroad which was greeted with such initial enthusiasm and hope was later washed out and abandoned. The dreams of industrial growth gradually gave way to acceptance of the role the Queen City was to play in the family of Black Hills towns, a role characterized by quietness, cultural interests, and good living.

As so often happens with the slow and quiet passage of the years, Spearfish found many of its early dreams of growth and prosperity coming true, mainly because it has remained quiet, spacious and unindustrialized.

A major step forward was achieved in 1940 when the Homestake Mining Company, seeking a sawmill location, selected Spearfish as the site. Some 84 families from various points in the lumber and timber department of the Homestake were relocated in the community, joining the many Homestake families who had been employed at the company's hydro-electric plants in Spearfish since 1911. Today the sawmill employs about 180 men, and adds an annual payroll close to three-fourths of a million dollars to the economy of the area.

In 1938 Josef Meier, world-famous Christus portrayor, after traveling the length and breadth of America in search of an ideal location for his world-renowned Luenen Passion Play, arrived in Spearfish and quickly determined that the Queen City of the Black Hills was the location for which he had been searching. Each year brings greater and greater numbers of tourists from every corner of America to view





AERIAL PHOTO OF
SPEARFISH,
JULY 1960

Photo by Black Hills Studio

the magnificent spectacle performed in a gigantic outdoor amphitheatre overlooking Spearfish. The success of this production and the meaning it has had in terms of the economic well-being of the community can be visualized from the fact that the 1960 season will bring the five-millionth person to see this outstanding production.

In 1954 another man with vision and determination also sought for an ideal spot, this time to locate a model home for the aged. Arthur A. Schade, a retired minister, had for years dreamed and planned of a retirement home where the aged could be cared for in a manner which would make their declining years days of joy, comfort and peace. He too found the spot he was seeking when he reached Spearfish. Completed in 1956, the David M. Dorsett home, which he founded and built, has facilities for the care of 148 senior citizens, with plans for an addition already underway.

It is difficult today to drive through the wide and spacious streets of Spearfish, lined with towering shade trees, and imagine that there was ever a day when this thriving peaceful community was threatened by the attacks of hostile Indians, forcing the inhabitants to barricade themselves within the security of their log stockade.

It is equally difficult to visualize this quiet community as a bustling metropolis. Yet the 1960 census recorded that 3,682 people now live in Spearfish, and that it was the fastest growing town in the county during the past ten year period. In view of these facts we would seem to be remiss if we did not accord the lovely Queen City of the Black Hills the same degree of quiet optimism that sustained the first settlers in this fertile valley.

WHITEWOOD

by Margaret E. Furois

EARLY DAY ST. ONGE TEACHER AND PIONEER

and Catherine A. Grant



The Black Hills area has many ghost towns. A mile and a half from present day Whitewood, Crook City had a spectacular beginning, boisterous and wild, but was early abandoned for greener pastures.

By the spring of 1876 the trails to the hills were filled with people, all of whom were not gold seekers. There were preachers, educators, bankers, lawyers, laborers, tradesmen and farmers as well. Crook City was a stagecoach stop in Lawrence County foothills that became a center for nearby ranchers as well.

In March 1879 during a severe blizzard, 150 head of oxen strayed from Crook City and 54 of them were found frozen. Pioneers were not only harassed by Indians and severe weather, but they had to lock their horses in barns at night to protect them from bears.

Crook City in its hey-day had three grocery stores, a saloon, a hardware store, implement store, two livery barns, three hotels and several blacksmith shops. Smiths were employed full time keeping the oxen shod for the freight lines.



Photo by courtesy of Margaret E. Furois
Crook City, Black Hills, 1876

The Coal Chute, Depot, Round House and Yards of the C.&N.W. Ry., 1905. At that time there were 14 trains per day on the three lines entering Whitewood.

Photo from booklet published by the Chicago & North Western Railroad, 1905



Crook City people were jubilant when the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley railroad pushed its operations into the northern hills from Rapid City in 1887. The Pioneer Townsite company, a subsidiary of the railroad company, surveyed a town where Whitewood stands today. The Crook City inhabitants transferred their homes and businesses the mile and a half to Whitewood, which grew as rapidly as Crook City could be abandoned.

The first Whitewood town lots were offered for sale on Thanksgiving Day 1887. Business lots brought \$250 to \$500, while residence lots sold from \$75 to \$200. The town board was organized May 18, 1888. The pretentious railroad water tank, coal chutes, roundhouse and section house furnished employment for many years to local residents. The elevation at Whitewood is about 3,400 feet and the railroad climbs to about 4,500 feet at Deadwood. Since Whitewood was the end of the line for a couple of years, settlers came to town for machinery, feed, mail, and to ship their wool and livestock. The railroad extension line from Whitewood reached Deadwood December 30, 1890, and extended through St. Onge to Belle Fourche that same year. Belle Fourche then became the business center for four big counties.

The activity with the coming of the railroad was increased when the Whitewood quarry built a spur to furnish rock to face the Orman Dam near Belle Fourche.

The manager of the Northwest Transportation Company started several new banks in the hills, one of them being the Whitewood Banking Company, which served the area successfully for many years. In 1932 it was the scene of one of the last bank robberies in the Black Hills when it was robbed of \$25,000, but the culprits were caught and sentenced to the penitentiary. In 1938 the bank was put in the hands of a receiver and closed permanently.

In 1890 the Fire Department and Rescue Hose Company was founded. The old hose carts have been replaced by trucks and large truck water tanks for rural fires. The fire hall has been the center of social life of the community for many years.

As early as 1892 a flour mill, the Whitewood Roller Mills, was established with a capacity of 60 barrels a day. It operated for nearly half a century.



AERIAL VIEW OF
WHITEWOOD,
JULY 1960

*Photo by Don Howe, used by
courtesy of Homestake Mining
Company*



Whitewood had an established newspaper by 1885. The "Whitewood Plaindealer," a weekly newspaper, also printed a weekly called the "Whitewood Centennial," which did not continue long. On March 16, 1910, issue No. 1, Volume I of the "St. Onge Quiet Tip" was printed in Whitewood. This paper was printed for only a few years. The "Plaindealer" remained a Whitewood local paper until 1928 when it was combined with the "Black Hills Weekly." Still called the "Black Hills Weekly and Plaindealer," it was purchased by the Seaton Publishing Company in 1946.

The Danish-American Creamery, organized about 1907, served the community for nearly fifty years until it was discontinued in 1954.

Early Whitewood had three hotels, two saloons, a drug-store, clothing store, barber shop, livery stables and a saw-mill. A stone hotel built by Lane at a cost of about \$20,000 in 1904 is now abandoned. Several large stone buildings were constructed in town, using block from the Whitewood quarry located four miles north of town. Another stone building constructed about 1904 was the Bonniwell Hall, now called the Golden Wheel dance hall.

From the beginning of the century until the first World War, lodges and their auxiliaries were thriving organizations and an integral part of Lawrence County communities. In 1906 the Masonic Lodge was established in Whitewood and is still active, though most of the other lodges were converted to regular insurance companies.

For many years the rural phone companies had a switch-board operator in Whitewood, but it is only in recent years that any phones were installed in the town residences. One of the first automatic switchboards in the hills was installed at Whitewood, and now a larger telephone building has been erected. In 1960, a modern dial system in town is connected to the rural phones.

For many years Whitewood staged big Labor Day celebrations. Special trains brought crowds from Rapid City, Belle Fourche and Deadwood, but the crowds diminished when Lead began to celebrate Labor Day. August 10, 1910, Whitewood staged an old fashioned roundup. The town still maintains Oak Park but it no longer has elaborate annual celebrations.

For a number of years about the time of the first World War, the town had a resident physician. As roads improved and cars came into use, the doctor moved to Sturgis.

The town has been favored by a good water supply from springs about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of town, and two wells. A sewage disposal system, municipally owned, was installed in 1959. The Black Hills Power and Light Company has served the town with power since 1928. The main street is lighted now in 1960 with vapor lights. The Montana-Dakota Utilities Company installed natural gas lines in 1928 for heating and other purposes.

In 1936 the WPA built a large gymnasium for the use of the town, but since the high school closed in 1943 the pupils commute to either Sturgis or Spearfish, depending on whether some of the students attend college.

The Whitewood citizens who founded the town or lived in Crook City have either sold out or moved to a distance. Whitewood has been known for a long time as a residence town. Some of the older homes were moved to other places and rebuilt during World War II, but since then many new homes have replaced them. A number of today's retired citizens were farmers from the Danish settlement north of town. The Dane church still keeps its cemetery, but funeral services are now held in Whitewood. Many younger couples who have settled in Whitewood are employed in Sturgis, Spearfish, Deadwood or Lead.

For years the railroad company was a heavy taxpayer, but it has been liquidating its assets in the community as rapidly as possible. It closed its depot service in the spring of 1958.

The municipally owned liquor store has helped pay the town taxes. An important business about 1940 was one of the first stock sales yards in the county, but larger accommodations were built at Belle Fourche and the Whitewood yard moved to Sturgis. The Tri-State Mill is used for buying and storing grain during the season only.

The businesses on Main Street today are a house building and supply dealer, a lumber company, cafe, laundromat, gas station that also does minor car repairing, and a large grocery store. The Whitewood Post and Pole Company has become a new industry in 1960.

With the closing of the high school, student activities are moved to other towns. The lodges still hold some social meetings and the women's auxiliaries of the Presbyterian and Lutheran churches have activities. A Birthday Club and Commercial Club meet on special occasions.

At least ten South Dakota postoffices in the west river region have been abandoned in that many years. None of these places was ever large, but their disappearance from the business world is a dramatic reminder of the problems faced by all South Dakota small towns. Old country ties have kept some communities from losing their identity.

Whitewood remains a center of activity for surrounding rural areas, a small town with an importance for many.



SAINT ONGE

by Bernadine Hansen

and

Margaret E. Furois

EARLY DAY ST. ONGE TEACHER AND PIONEER



Among the many classes of people who came to the hills when gold was discovered were farmers, some of whom engaged in hay-making in the False Bottom Valley and remained to make a permanent settlement. The settlers customarily made about two trips to Deadwood a year for supplies and mail. Between times, the mail was delivered to Mr. St. Onge's house for the local people by travelers heading north.

In 1876 Jimmy Irons, a scout for a party of hay gatherers, was ambushed and killed by Indians a couple of miles north of town and was buried near the spot where he fell. The haying party then built a heavy corral from cottonwood logs to protect themselves and their livestock against further Indian attacks. The following year, several farm buildings and stock in corrals were destroyed by a fire about three miles north of St. Onge.

By 1879 a right of way and survey were completed for the Deadwood-Redwater Railroad. This railroad never materialized, and the northern end of the right of way was later used for the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad.



Photo by courtesy of Margaret E. Furois

ADOLPH FUROIS STORE IN 1892

This was the second building in Saint Onge. It was built by Pierre Leveque. At the gathering were noted Louis Rainville, Gideon Larive, Joe Turgeon, Noel Bassett, Pete Derosier, Francis Benoit, Fred Varie and Achille Furois holding daughter. Mrs. Adolph Furois and Mrs. Achille Tetreault were holding infants while Mrs. James Doody looked on. The teen agers and smaller children were other members of these families. Unidentified persons have moved away from the community and their names forgotten.

St. Onge school district No. 29 was organized in 1883. The first school house was built on the old highway, which was just west of the present school house. The settlement at that time included a few scattered houses, large fields and pastures, and the postoffice. Every family had large gardens and milked a cow or two to supply fresh milk. Butter was made and the surplus sold in town. Conserving the milk in a lush spring for the low supply in fall and winter was a problem. A cheese factory built and operated a mile south of town was a welcomed new industry. With the movement of homesteaders north of Belle Fourche, the factory was moved to that area and the ranch for many years became a landmark known as the "Cheese Ranch."

In 1885 Mr. St. Onge resigned as postmaster and the office was moved one half mile north.

In August 1888, a cloudburst in the hills caused Polo Creek and False Bottom Creek to overflow their banks, sweeping away buildings, livestock and hay. That same year, a Deadwood judge bought the farm where Mr. St. Onge had lived and built a private race track on the flat west of the road. Three other private race tracks were also built about that time around St. Onge. Horse racing became the popular recreation in the community for the next few years.

False Bottom Creek was spanned by new bridges and the present highway to Deadwood was established during the following two years. The postoffice being no longer on the highway, the postmaster moved away and the office was moved to the stone building a mile south of town.

In 1890 the Pioneer Townsite Company surveyed the town lots and erected the first building in St. Onge, a depot. For a number of years the depot was occupied for only a couple of months a year during the heavy shipping season. During the summer there were often excursion trains. The railroad stock yards were built about 1892 but were torn down about 1956.

In the late eighties the Catholic cemetery was established. The early funerals were held from Deadwood because there were no morticians available and no resident priest. The first marked grave in the cemetery is dated March 1, 1892.

Between 1890 and 1895 a building boom took place. The second building in town was a frame structure built on the lots now occupied by the stone store building. The post-office was moved to that building and was operated in conjunction with a general store. The second story was used as family living quarters. Later a blacksmith shop and hotel were built nearby.

On June 27, 1896, a neighboring newspaper reported that the St. Onge orchestra played for a dance. That same year, the school house was built where it stands today in 1960.

Progress continued in 1898 when a lot was purchased north of the present postoffice and a building erected. A steam operated cream separator was installed. Farmers brought their milk in the morning, sold the cream and took the sweet skim milk home to feed their livestock. It was an improvement over the system of selling cream by the inch. The following year a local rancher bought a horse-operated threshing machine. It took six to eight horses to operate the separator alone. A large level field was required to set it up and any tipping threw the machine out of order. It developed so many troubles that it soon was replaced with a steam operated machine.

From the beginning of the century and during the following ten years, the settlement continued to boom. The honyockers were moving north to file on homesteads in Butte and Harding counties. Many cattle were unloaded at the stock pens to be driven through the Crooked Oaks country and turned loose.

In 1902, \$6,000,000 worth of produce was shipped through St. Onge on the railroad. The coming of the railroad, the use of steam for threshing machines, road transportation and other factors all contrived to lessen the profits from horse raising. On August 27, 1903, the JB horse ranch sold most of their large herd of horses.

A hotel was built in 1903, but burned to the ground the following year. Plans were immediately made to erect a new hotel building to be a 30 by 70 foot two story structure on the corner south of the present Supper Club. It was a busy place until the first World War. Years later it was torn down and the lumber used for other buildings.

Those were exciting times for the townspeople. Though the community lacked much population, it had enthusiasm, energy, and vision for future progress of the area. Entertainment included parties, dances, picnics, ball games and saddle horse races in the streets, replacing the former race tracks which had been plowed and seeded for grain fields.

In 1905 a blizzard in May caused heavy cattle losses, with an amount of snow not seen again until the blizzard of 1949. The Catholic church a half mile south of the school burned in 1905. A new cheese factory was built that year in St. Onge to replace the one which had been moved north.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen Lodge picnic was held in July 1906 for which special trains brought an estimated 500 people from surrounding towns. A parade, band, and notable speakers furnished the program. Free barbecue was served to the crowd. Business enterprises of importance began in 1906. A promoter and banker from the eastern part of the state moved to St. Onge and opened a bank. A company was incorporated to drill for an artesian well that was so successful that when the water came in it shot a stream six feet in the air. The well ran wild for a couple of years until more stock was sold to lay water lines in the streets. The township was incorporated that year.

In 1907 the Todd school district No. 42 was united with district No. 29 so the township and school district boundaries coincided. Orman Dam was opened and the small acreage allotments for irrigation brought many farmers through St. Onge by train.

While the first farms in the area were only 160 acres each, by 1907 the size of the farms was increasing while the number of farm units was decreasing.

On March 16, 1910, the first issue of the "St. Onge Quiet Tip," a local newspaper, was printed. Local businesses advertised in that issue included a barber shop, restaurant, rooming house, saloon, real estate company, elevator, two general merchandise stores, a bank, and a builder and contractor. The following month the livery barn on the corner was purchased to be moved and plans were made to build a two story stone or cement block building on the site. Excavation was also begun for the Congregational church,

and the farmers of the valley organized a rural telephone company. In July the concrete foundations for the stone building were completed and the first car of stone was shipped from Blackhawk for the building.

There was a fire in the drug store located in the large hotel building in 1912. Little damage was done to the hotel but the drug store was completely destroyed. The doctor then moved to Fruitdale and opened a new drug store.

From 1911 to 1914 a literary society was active. They met monthly during the winter at the school house. A group of young people later leased the Woodman Hall for dances. They organized their own orchestra and sponsored local entertainment. In 1914 a creamery was opened in the building formerly occupied by a general store, located on the south side of main street across from the Woodman Hall. During that year a carload of angora goats was unloaded in St. Onge and taken to the pasture west of Spearfish. The venture proved unprofitable, however, since the brush and brambles tore the long wool fibers so the clip was very poor.

In 1917 work was begun on the new Catholic church, the first mass celebrated there on Christmas day.

A Liberty Loan committee meeting was held March 1918, with ninety-six people pledging from one to three hundred dollars to fill the community's quota. The next month an oil promoter leased land for oil explorations in and around St. Onge. A well was drilled north of town in the Crooked Oaks area. July 4th of that year was the date of the first annual Belle Fourche Roundup celebration, which has become one of the biggest annual rodeos in the area, with many St. Onge riders in attendance.

On May 30, 1919, St. Onge welcomed home its servicemen from the war. The town ladies served supper to two hundred seventy-five persons, and an orchestra was hired for a dance.

The years after the war were profitable for the farmers. Land prices had risen, there were hopes of an oil boom, grass lands were plowed and planted with wheat. Farmers bought their own threshing machines and tractors, bought more land, and nearly everyone owned a car.

Fire destroyed the creamery in May 1923. Plans were made to build a new fireproof structure since this was an

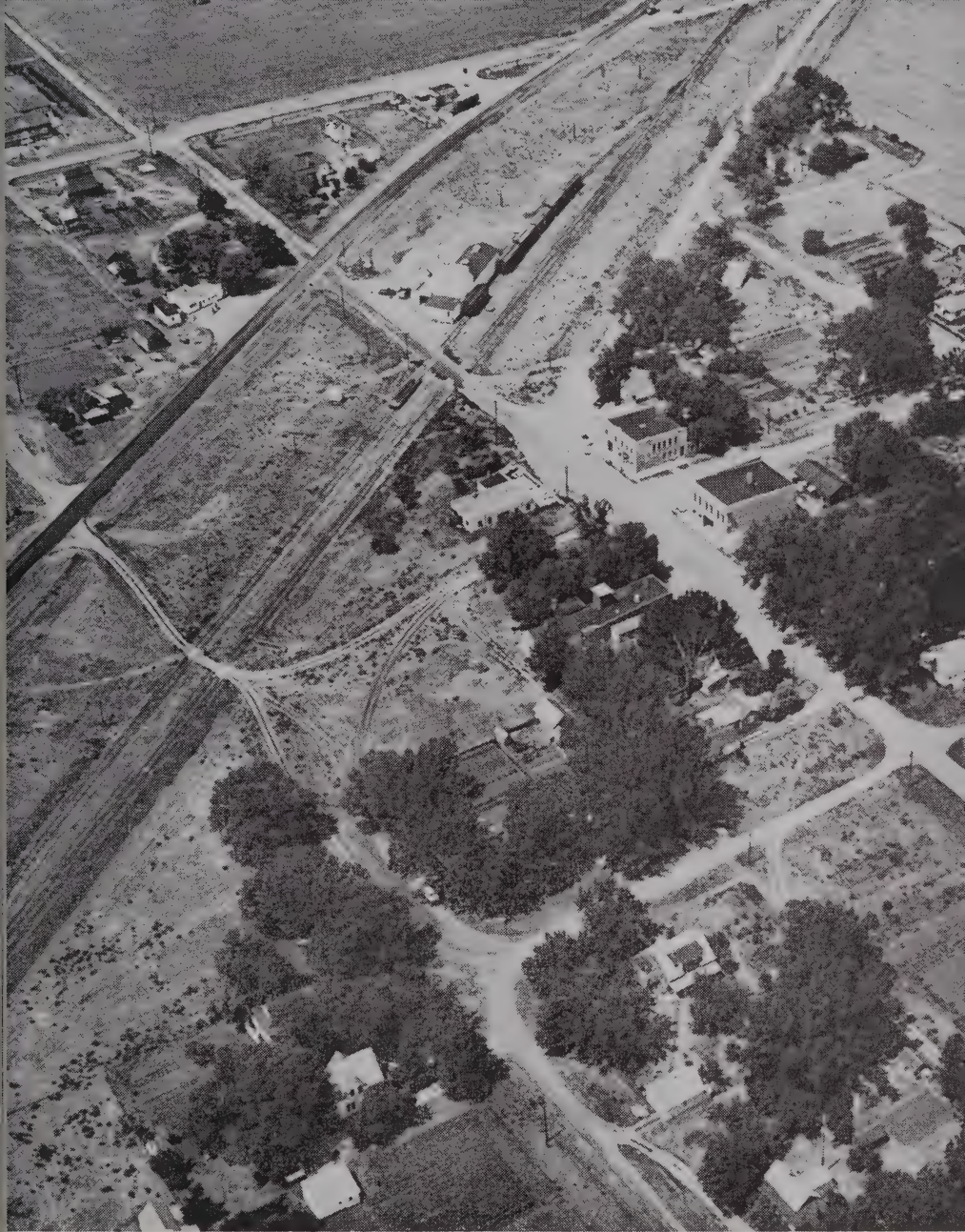


Photo by Don Howe, by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company

Aerial photo of St. Onge, South Dakota, 1960

important business in town. The last black bear in the Black Hills was killed three miles southwest of St. Onge in November 1924.

New cars made people conscious of the bad road conditions in the county. In the winter of 1926-1927 a road crew camped south of town, and the road from the school house south to the Deadwood corner was graveled. In 1927 natural gas from the Baker, Montana, fields was piped to St. Onge for homes and businesses.

On January 17, 1929, the thermometer registered 32 degrees below zero. When the weather warmed to the blistering heat of August 8, a grocery store owner in town was brutally attack and died. The incident has remained a St. Onge unsolved mystery.

In the early spring of 1934 dust storms carried away the topsoil from the fields so the crops never grew. Grasshoppers stripped trees and bushes, and airplanes reported encountering dense clouds of hoppers high in the air.

The St. Onge State Bank went out of business in 1937. The farmers recovered only a small percentage of their savings deposits. In spite of business recessions, transportation continued to improve in the area. A new coat of gravel was put on the Spearfish, Deadwood and St. Onge roads in 1938. Two years later the St. Onge-Belle Fourche highway oil contract was let. In 1942 the Chicago and North Western Railroad track in the St. Onge area was completely rebuilt with heavy steel rails. Heavier engines were put into use, and since then welded tracks permit the seventy-five and eighty car trains to pass through the town with very little noise.

The 1940's in the St. Onge community can be summarized by a few newspaper excerpts:

May 21, 1942—Lightning struck and burned several power poles near town and killed two head of cattle.

January, 1943—A Red Cross first aid station was set up and a sewing room provided for the Civil Defense program.

March 18, 1943—A blinding snow storm saw temperatures falling to 30 degrees below zero.

May 6, 1943—Many St. Onge people went to Deadwood to hear Wendell Willkie talk.

August, 1943—A scrap iron drive was held to help the war effort.

November 11, 1943—A snow storm blocked roads and marooned six men traveling from Deadwood to Belle Fourche at St. Onge for several days until the plows could open roads.

June, 1947—A destructive tornado struck the Spearfish valley area and touched the ground south of St. Onge, wrecked buildings and brought hailstones as large as baseballs in town. Roofs were damaged, windows and tree branches were broken.

July 3, 1947—The St. Onge entrant in the beauty contest at Hot Springs won the title of "Miss South Dakota."

1948—Rodeo grounds were built north of town with local funds. The saddle club, organized the previous year, has sponsored rodeos there each year since.

February 23, 1948—The Black Hills Power and Light Company installed an electric eye to operate the town's street lights.

January 1, 1949—The blizzard of 1949 began, bringing huge drifts of snow to the area. Travel was at a standstill for days and livestock suffered hardship from the deep snow and lack of feed.

During the fifties, the churches through their women's organizations were sponsoring suppers, creamery dinners, church weddings and receptions, bridal showers, baby showers, going-away parties, national and local benefit drives, summer church schools, Christmas programs and benefit home talent plays.

The 4H Clubs entered contests and won trips to Brookings and State Fairs. They competed in Achievement Days, Farm Picnic events, Swarm Day parades, and 4H Recognition days.

Extension clubs competed in state play contests, district, state and national federation conventions and recreation programs.

The Commercial Club, with an average membership of more than fifty, planned and served suppers to the members once a month. They included speakers or other programs at each meeting. They sponsored the care of cemeteries, sponsored entries to the South Dakota Beauty Con-

test, the State Dairy Princess, the Make-It-Yourself-With-Wool Contests, and other activities. They also furnished extras for acting in the Black Hills Passion Play at Spearfish.

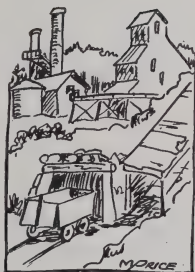
Schools cooperated in the Young Citizens League contests and Parent-Teacher Association programs. High school pupils have received scholarship awards. The Farmers' Union has held regular meetings and engaged in their community programs. St. Onge Saddle Clubs have sponsored rodeos annually in the latter part of June.

Residents admit that St. Onge isn't very big even now with the population even less than it used to be, but they believe that in its accomplishments, it is as big a town as you'll find anywhere in the country. St. Onge sons and daughters achieved eminence in many fields of endeavor, many of them receiving national attention. The town is a very real part of Lawrence County industry and enterprise.

MINING IN LAWRENCE COUNTY

by Clarence N. Kravig

MINE SUPERINTENDENT, HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY



Mining is a truly basic industry, and from the time of General Custer's reconnaissance trip through the Black Hills in 1874 to the present time, gold and mining have had a profound influence in the Black Hills, particularly in the northern area encompassed by Lawrence County.

The actual date when gold was first found in the Black Hills is not known, but reports of gold preceded the Custer expedition. Captain Seth Bullock, frontiersman and first sheriff of Deadwood, reports in his diary that:

"Shortly after the close of the Civil War, Father DeSmet, the heroic missionary, stated at a dinner party in the home of General Ewing at Columbus, Ohio, that he had repeatedly seen gold dust in the possession of the Sioux Indians. They told him that they got it in the Black Hills and that there was 'heap plenty' of it. When and how the Sioux got the gold which they had from time to time is a controversial matter. If it was from the Black Hills, it is almost an assured fact that it came from the section now embraced in the county of Lawrence, as their trail through the hills in going from their camps along the Belle Fourche River to their hunting grounds west of the hills, skirted Deadwood Gulch, crossed the Homestake Belt, and the rich placer deposits in the gravels near Central City."

Newton and Jenney in their United States Geological Survey report of 1875 quoted Father DeSmet's early reports of gold . . .

"that while living with the Sioux Indians he was shown by them nuggets of gold which they informed him had been obtained at different points in the Black Hills."

The finding of the Thoen Stone by Louis Thoen near the town of Spearfish in 1887 tells the story of an early gold discovery in 1833.

On July 27, 1874, H. N. Ross and W. T. McKay, two practical miners attached to General Custer's expedition, discovered gold on French Creek near the present town of Custer. The following is part of the report made by the Custer expedition:

"Enough however was determined to establish the fact gold is distributed throughout the extensive area within the Black Hills. Gold was obtained in numerous localities in what are termed gulches."

News of the discovery traveled fast and created considerable excitement throughout the country. Although the Black Hills, being part of an Indian reservation, was closed to the white man, the lure of gold resulted in the formation of many parties of prospectors heading for the Black Hills.

One of the largest of these was the Gordon Party which was formed in Sioux City, Iowa to determine whether gold was present in the Black Hills in paying quantities. The party of twenty-five, including one woman and a boy, and some members who had been with the Custer expedition, reached French Creek in December 1874. Prospecting was carried on while building a stockade for protection against the Indians. Seventy ounces of gold were recovered from placer mining before the miners were ejected by soldiers in April 1875. They returned to Sioux City eventually, and spread the glad tidings of gold in the Black Hills.

Presence of this group in the Black Hills compelled the government to take notice of unauthorized operations in Indian territory. As a result, W. O. Jenney was commissioned by the Secretary of the Interior to undertake an examination of the Black Hills area. Henry Newton was named his assistant. The party of 17, under military escort of 400 men commanded by Colonel Dodge, started from Cheyenne on May 17, 1875, and returned on October 14 of that same year. They made a careful examination of the entire Black Hills country, and reported various discoveries of gold

in different districts. They started exploring in the southern Black Hills and then worked into the northern portion including Box Elder and Elk Creeks. Some of the party worked their way from the headwaters of Elk Creek to the headwaters of Spearfish Creek, and then followed Spearfish Creek from its source to the Red Valley where Spearfish is now located—others explored Bear Butte Creek. They did not explore Deadwood Gulch, but confirmed gold discovery there—

“Gold has been discovered by miners on Deadwood and White-wood Creeks and the numerous gulches running into them in the vicinity of Terry Peak.”

In spite of government restrictions against the white man entering the Black Hills region, thousands of prospectors disregarded the law and headed for the new El Dorado. Many were turned back by the military, and their wagons and outfits were burned or confiscated, but nevertheless no less than 1,200 had reached their destination by August 10, the date set for the departure of all trespassers on Sioux territory. In the fall of 1875 and early 1876 the gold rush reached peak proportions in spite of cold, snow, hostile Indians, and government troops who summarily turned back all parties they could intercept on their way to the Black Hills.

There was an insistent demand, however, that the area be opened to prospectors, so the government attempted to negotiate a treaty with the Indians. When these talks failed, the government withdrew its objection to prospecting in the area. Later a treaty was finally arranged with the Indians, and the area was ceded to the government in September 1876. The Black Hills were legally opened to prospecting and settlement in February 1877.

The rush of prospectors came to all parts of the hills, but many of them headed for Custer, which as early as 1876 was reported to have several thousand inhabitants. The placers there proved to be low grade and limited in extent; therefore when news of rich strikes in Deadwood Gulch reached Custer, that camp was practically abandoned for the rich diggings further north. Deadwood, Blacktail, Sawpit, Bobtail, Gold Run, Nigger, Mallory and Bear gulches—as well as Iron Creek and Potato Creek were scenes of placering. A nugget worth \$453.00 was taken from Nigger

Gulch. The early prospectors in Deadwood Gulch found evidence that the gulches tributary to Deadwood Gulch had been prospected many years before their arrival.

The first placer claim in the northern Black Hills was located in Deadwood Gulch on November 17, 1875—and the first lode claims were the Grant and Old Abe located December 11, 1875. The placer claims soon were actively being mined by gold pan, rockers, and sluice boxes. Several claims were very rich, notably the Wheeler claim from which over \$50,000 was panned during the season of 1876. During the first summer \$1,200,000 was taken from the area.

The gold pan, pick and shovel were the basic tools of the prospector and placer miner, and much gold was recovered with these simple tools. While the pan was the prospector's tool because of portability, the rocker or cradle took its place on the producing placer claims where water was limited. The rocker agitated the gravel on the same principle as the gold pan but much larger quantities of gravel could be worked than was possible with the gold pan. Where water was plentiful in the streams, sluice boxes were used to recover the gold from the gravels.

When the best placer ground was staked and the rich placers yielded their wealth, many prospectors turned their efforts to finding the mother lode or source of the gold in the stream beds. Sawpit, Deadwood, Bobtail, and Gold Run gulches all intersected the Homestake lode from which much of the placer gold was derived. Gold in the Deadwood formation of Cambrian age also was a source of much of the placer gold. Prospectors combed the hillsides above the richest placer diggings in search of the mother lode.

Moses and Fred Manuel and Hank Harvey were among the prospectors searching for the source of the placer gold. Moses Manuel had been prospecting in Montana, Idaho, Nevada and Alaska and was on his way to Africa when he read an account of the gold discovery by General Custer's expedition. He abandoned his African trip and left Portland, Oregon for the Black Hills. In Montana he was joined by his brother Fred, and the two arrived in Custer in December 1875. They did not find anything of interest in that vicinity, so they continued prospecting through the winter around Harney Peak, Hill City and Box Elder when they heard of

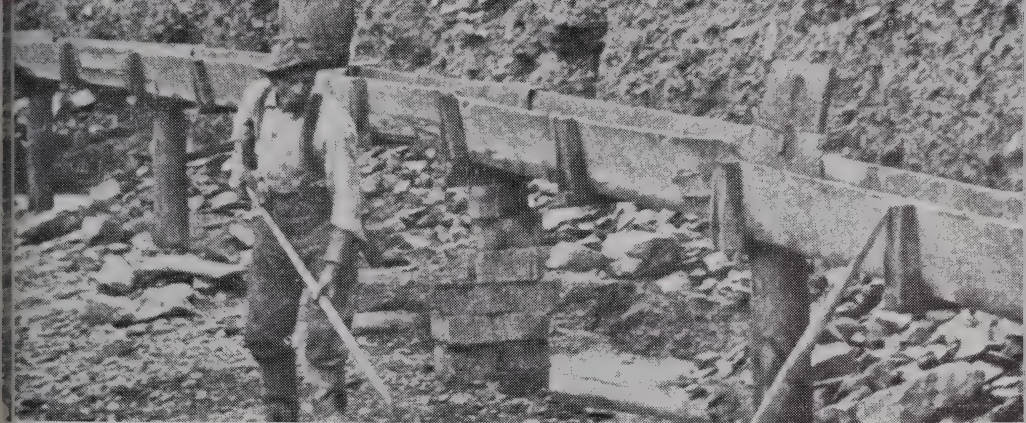
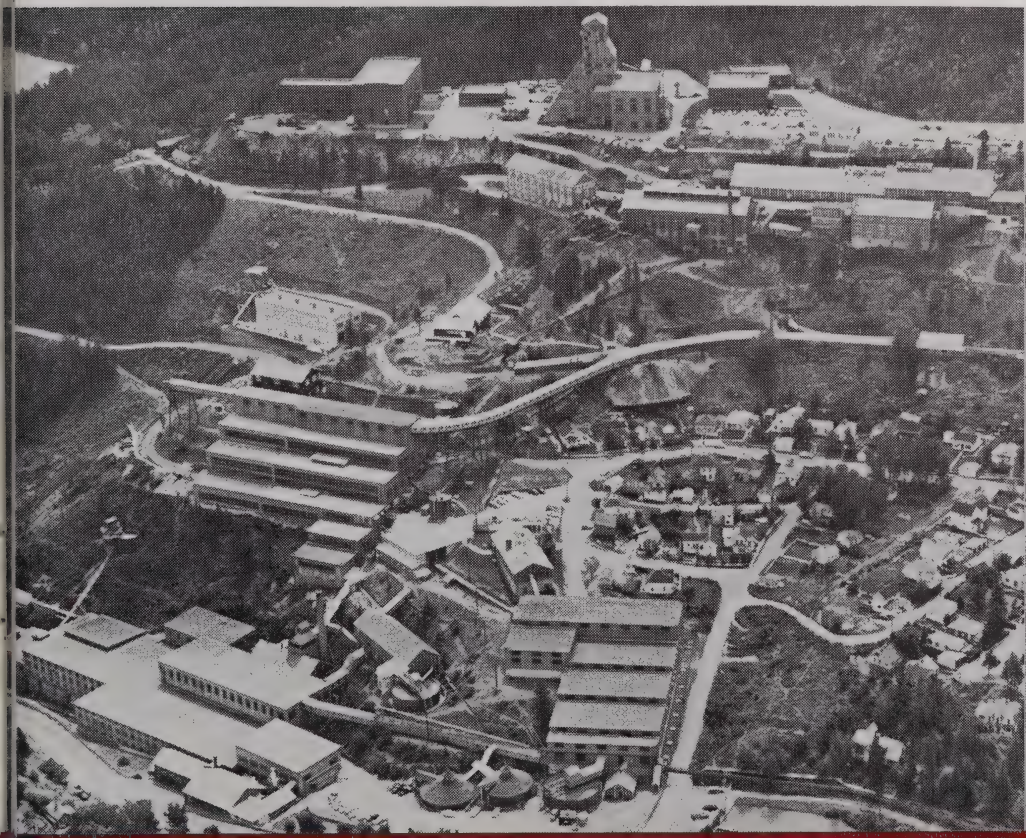


Photo by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company
Placer mining with sluice box, 1876

Surface plants of Homestake Mining Company, 1960

Photo by Don Howe, by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company



a rich strike further north. They were joined by two other men, one of whom was Hank Harney, and they went down Spruce Gulch to Whitewood Gulch (the present site of Deadwood) where excitement was running high and everybody was reporting rich diggings and new strikes. They continued upstream until they struck Bobtail Gulch (present town of Terraville) where they were able to locate a claim apiece and they also acquired part interest in the Golden Terra claim. Early in April the four men found some rich float quartz. They looked for the lode but the snow was too deep and they could not find it. As the snow began to melt, Moses Manuel continued the search alone because his partners did not think it was worth anything. After looking every day for a week, and the snow had melted sufficiently, he found the lead (pronounced leed) in the bottom of a draw. He found the quartz lead to be very solid, but he was able to break off a piece and brought it back to camp where he pounded it, panned it, and found it to be very rich. The next day Hank Harney consented to go with Moses Manuel and locate a mining claim which they called Homestake—this was April 9, 1876. They dug a discovery shaft, and the first chunk of quartz, weighing nearly 200 pounds, "was the richest ever taken out." They continued to excavate an open cut and found they had very rich ore. They built a road to Whitewood Gulch (Pluma), bought an ox team and wagon, and built an arrastra (a rude Spanish-American mill for pulverizing ore) and hauled the ore. They ran the arrastra the following winter and took out \$5,000. That spring they sold the Golden Terra claim to John Bailey of Denver and Durbin Brothers of Cheyenne for \$35,000.

In June 1877, L. D. Kellogg, representing a California firm, came to the Black Hills to investigate the Homestake and Golden Star claims and acquired an option to buy for \$70,000. These claims, along with others, were purchased and development started promptly. The Homestake Mining Company was incorporated on November 5, 1877 and brought into production in 1878, with Sam McMasters as the first superintendent.

At that time, the nearest railroad was the Union Pacific at Sidney, Nebraska, and all equipment had to be hauled 270 miles by ox team into the Black Hills.

The discovery of the Homestake lode spurred prospectors throughout the area. Hundreds of claims were staked out, and many famous mines were discovered. Mining districts were organized and laid out with the important ones being the Deadwood, Whitewood (Lead area), Ruby, Nigger, Carbonate, Elk Mountain (Ragged Top), Galena, Two Bit and Spearfish.

Four companies of importance, in addition to the Homestake, were started on what was generally referred to as the Homestake Belt. These were the Highland, the Deadwood Terra, the Father DeSmet, and the Caledonia—all of which were later consolidated by Homestake. In addition, the Homestake acquired other properties including the Columbus on the north in 1912, and the Oro Hondo on the south at a much later date.

Many mines in the Lead and Blacktail area operated on ore from the flat lying Deadwood formation which was called the Potsdam in those days. The Hidden Fortune Mine, with fabulously rich pockets of ore in the flat lying formation west of the Homestake open cut, was discovered about 1900 on the Otto Grantz property while prospecting for tungsten. The main production came from the Durango and Harrison claims—\$70,000 was taken out in one month. The company built a 60-stamp mill and a cyanide plant on Whitewood Creek two miles below Deadwood. Operations continued through 1905. It was acquired by the Homestake Mining Company in 1912 who worked it for tungsten from 1915 to 1919, from 1927 to 1929, and again during World War II.

The conglomerate ores lying at the base of the Deadwood formation were called "cement ores." Some of the mines operating on cement ores were the Hawkeye-Pluma, Gentle Annie, Monitor, Pinney, Hidden Treasure, Esmeralda, Baltimore & Deadwood, Deadbroke, Minerva, Phoenix, Jupiter, and Omega. Other mines in the area operating on ore in the Deadwood formation dolomite were the American Express, Beltram, Wells Fargo and Kicking Horse.

Further north in the same formation, the Penobscot Mining Company was started at Maitland (Garden City) in 1902. This property was taken over by Alexander Maitland from 1904 to 1906, and was operated by the north Homestake Company from 1907 to 1911. In 1934 the Canyon Corporation reopened the mine and operated it until shut down in 1942

by a War Production Board order. In the same area the Garden City Mining Company operated in the early 1890's and was taken over by the newly formed Minnesota Mining Company in 1903.

In the Ruby Basin district (Terry and Trojan) gold was discovered in the flat lying Deadwood formation in 1877, but ore of \$100 per ton value was needed to be profitable because the refractory nature of the ore required shipping by ox team to the railroad, then 500 miles by rail, plus smelter charges. In 1890, however, matte smelting was introduced, and the Deadwood and Delaware smelter, located in Deadwood with a capacity of 500 tons per day, brought the Ruby Basin ores into prominence. The cyanide process was first started about 1892 at the Rossiter plant, but it was not until about 1900 that this process reached great success and added materially to the value of these ores. As a result, the Golden Reward, Horseshoe, Mogul, Lundberg Dorr Wilson, and Imperial Mining Companies became big producers. The Golden Reward Mining Company was organized in 1877 by consolidating several smaller properties including the Golden Reward, South Golden Reward, Tornado, Alpha, Little Bonanza, Boscobel, Double Standard, Stewart, Harmony, Billy, Isadorah, Fannie, Daisy, Ruby Belle, Sundance, and Union. The Deadwood and Delaware properties including the smelter were acquired in 1899. Operations of the Golden Reward stopped in 1918 after a production of about \$21,000,000.

The Horseshoe Mining Company, consisting of the Horseshoe, Welcome, and Hardscrabble mines, completed a 500-ton Horseshoe mill in 1903.

The Mogul Mining Company, operating in the great Mogul ore shoot which was a southward extension of the Tornado ore shoot, acquired the Horseshoe Mining Company properties in 1905, and also acquired the Ben Hur Mine.

The Lundberg Dorr Wilson Company, organized in 1902, built the Lundberg Dorr Wilson 100-ton cyanide mill in Terry on the Buxton property. This company acquired the Clinton and Big Bonanza from the Clinton Mining Company and also acquired the Retriever Mine. Production from 1902 to 1913 was 219,008 tons yielding 43,617 ounces of gold and 60,088 ounces of silver.

The Imperial Mining Company was first organized to operate the American Express group of claims in Blacktail

Gulch. In 1902 the company began to operate a 200-ton cyanide mill in Deadwood. In 1904 they bought several claims in the Bald Mountain area. In the Trojan area, A. J. Smith located the Empire claim on Green Mountain in 1877, and later he located the Trojan, Perserverance, and Indispensable claims. In 1880 the Portland Mining Company was organized, and acquired these claims and built a mill, but little success was obtained in treatment of the ores by any of the known methods until matte smelting was introduced in 1890 and cyanidation in 1892. In 1911 the American Eagle properties were purchased and a reorganization was effected under the name of the Trojan Mining Company. Operations continued successfully from 1912 until 1923, with a production of \$4,673,568 in gold and silver. In 1928 the Bald Mountain Mining Company was formed as a reorganization of the old Trojan and Clinton Mining Company with important additions of the Dakota group—Two Johns, The Imperial, and part of the Mogul Mining Company. Other mines with production records also included in the Bald Mountain holdings were the Alameda, Apex, Crown Hill, Decorah, Dividend, Folger, Gold Dollar, Jessie Lee-Leopard, Juno, Maleta, Marco Polo, Ofer, Snow Storm, and Victoria Extension. Production started in 1934 when the price of gold was raised to \$35.00 per ounce, and from that time until the company shut down in 1959 it produced \$13,948,782 in gold and \$628,411 in silver.

Further northwest is the Elk Mountain mining district, more commonly called the Ragged Top district. The American Mining Company was organized in 1898 with ownership of the Flora E. (Dacy) group of claims. This company acquired option on the Balmoral, the Eva H, Silver Tongue, Gossan and Iva. The Deadwood Standard Company operated in this district between 1900 and 1904. The Spearfish Mining Company assembled several groups of claims in 1900 and produced some 48,000 ounces of gold. The Ulster and Victoria also were producers in this district. The ore bodies in this district were confined to mineralized fissures in the Pahasapa limestone.

North of Trojan and Ragged top is the Carbonate district where the Adelphi was one of the producers before 1890. About 1900 the Cleopatra Mining Company was formed, and a 50-ton cyanide mill operated for a little over a year. The Iron Hill was one of the largest lead-silver-gold producers between 1885 and 1891, with a production of \$667,218.

To the south of Lead at the town of Flatiron, the Wasp No. 2 mine in the Deadwood formation produced about \$2,500,000 in gold, and over a quarter of a million dollars in tungsten. Production started in 1894 and ended in 1918.

To the southwest of Lead in the Galena district, the Richmond; Sitting Bull; and Branch Mint were discovered in 1876 and produced considerable silver from 1881 to 1883. Other mines in the Galena district were the Merritt, Alexander, Alice, Golden Crest, Puritan, Red Cloud, Silver Queen, Oro Fino, Coletta, Cora, Custer, El Refugio, and Florence. The Uncle Sam Mine of the Clover Leaf Mining Company at Roubaix is also included in the Galena mining district. This company recovered nearly one million dollars in gold, most of which was recovered before 1905. Also in the Galena mining district is the Gilt Edge Mine with recorded production from 1900 to 1902 and from 1905 to 1916 of 37,486 ounces of gold and 20,536 ounces of silver.

Near Deadwood in Spruce Gulch, the Lexington Hill Gold Mining Company was formed in 1903 with some production from the Belle Eldridge claim. This property later became the Deadwood Lead and Zinc Company, and at the present the Belle Eldridge Gold Mines. There was some production during the first World War. The most recent production was ten cars of lead, zinc, silver, and gold ore which were shipped between 1942 and 1948.

In the Tinton area much prospecting was done for tin, with some production from pegmatites and from placer tin or cassiterite recovered during gold placering. The American and Cleveland Tin Mining Company was formed in 1889 and was succeeded by the Tinton Mining Company; the Tinton Reduction Company; and the Black Hills Tin Company. Some shipments of concentrates were made to England.

The town of Deadwood became the site of many mills and smelters for the mines of the area, and included the Imperial 200-ton mill, the Dakota 120-ton, Golden Reward 200-ton, Golden Reward Smelter 500-ton, Rossiter 80-ton, Glass and Company 75-ton, and the Hidden Fortune 60-ton.

After 85 years of almost continuous operations in Lawrence County, the Homestake Mining Company is still operating, but all the other famous mines of the area have been

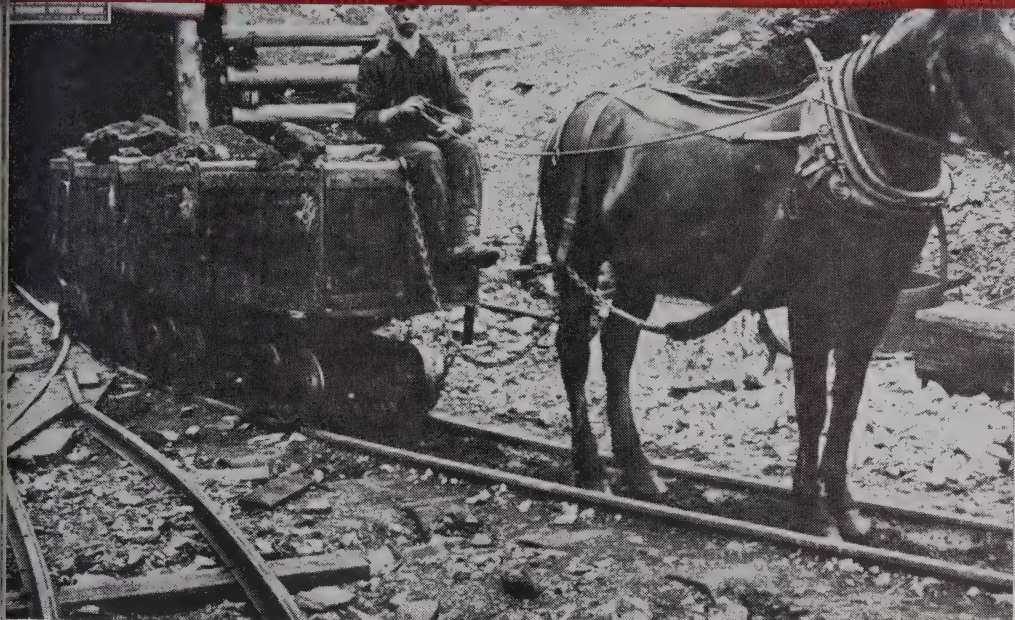


Photo by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company

In 1900 ore was hauled by horse or mule in one ton end dump cars. This picture was taken on the 300 foot level adit of the Homestake Mine.

Battery locomotive hauling train of three ton ore cars to shaft, Homestake Mine, September 1958. Perry Palmer operating locomotive.

Photo by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company



worked out or have become unprofitable because of rising costs of labor and supplies. The Bald Mountain Mining Company was the most recent to shut down, with production stopping in 1959. The only shutdowns of consequence in Homestake history were from a mine fire in 1907, labor trouble in 1909, another mine fire in 1919-20, and the War Production Board shutdown from October 15, 1942 to July 1, 1945. During this World War II shutdown, a third mine fire was discovered. The fire was brought under control by sealing off the fire area by air-tight bulkheads. Subsequent sand filling of this area put the fire out. During the first two mine fires, the mine was flooded and then unwatered.

The Homestake set a new production record in 1959 both in tonnage and ounces of gold produced. Profits, however, have been steadily reduced in recent years because of inflation which has raised the cost of labor and supplies while the price of gold has not changed since 1934. Technological changes, new methods, and mechanization have been responsible for a continuing profitable operation. The Homestake Mine is now 6,200 feet deep, where the rock temperature is 113 degrees. Giant fans are required to deliver adequate ventilation to these great depths, whereas only natural ventilation was used before 1923. Huge hoists, powered by 1500 h.p. electric motors have replaced the steam engine to hoist men, supplies, and ore. Electric pumps lift 1,500 gallons of water per minute in 1,250-ft. lifts compared with the early-day Cornish pumps used until 1902. The early-day miner used candles and the miner's candlestick to light his way. These gave way to the sunshine lamp about 1910 which was short-lived. The carbide lamp replaced the sunshine, or oil lamp, about 1913 and this lamp in turn was replaced by electric cap lamps in September 1934.

The mine has become mechanized to a large extent, and stopping has been changed many times. Compressed air locomotives replaced horses and mules for haulage and these in turn have been largely replaced by electric locomotives. The last horse was pensioned at the Homestake in about 1909. Drilling in the early days was done by single-jack or double-jack methods (hand-held steel struck by hand-held hammer). This method was replaced by the piston machine

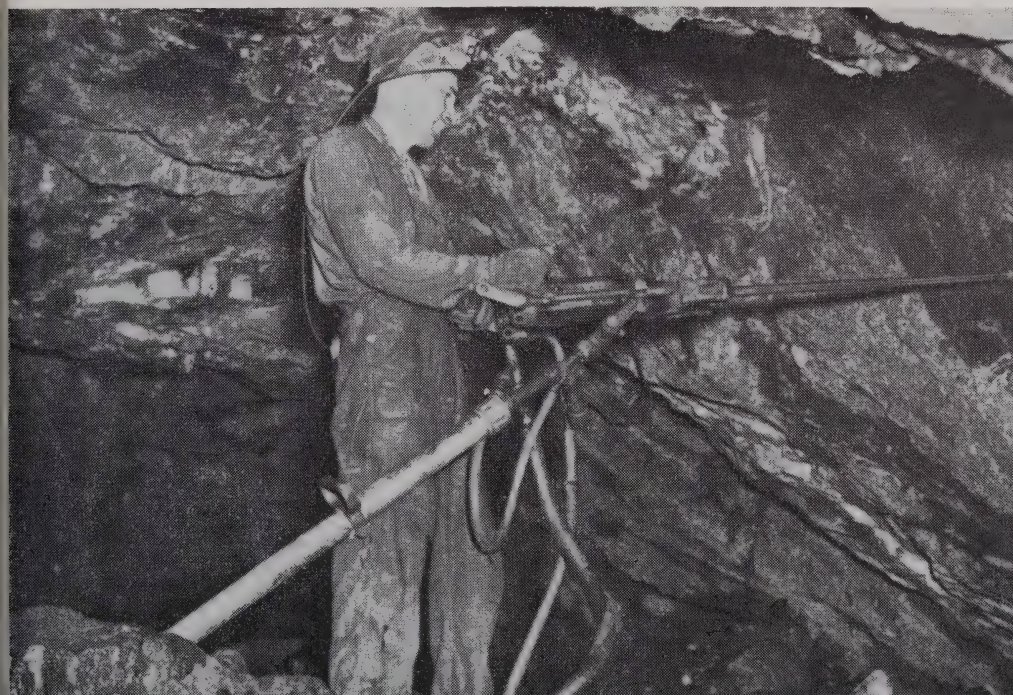


Photo by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company

In 1904 drilling at Homestake was done with a heavy piston drill; the steel reciprocated with each stroke of the piston. Each miner had a helper with him on this type machine. Note the miner's candlestick on the caps.

Miner Elton Bertsch drilling in a horizontal cut and fill stope with a light weight jackhammer mounted on a portable pneumatic feed leg, 1956, Homestake Mine.

Photo by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company



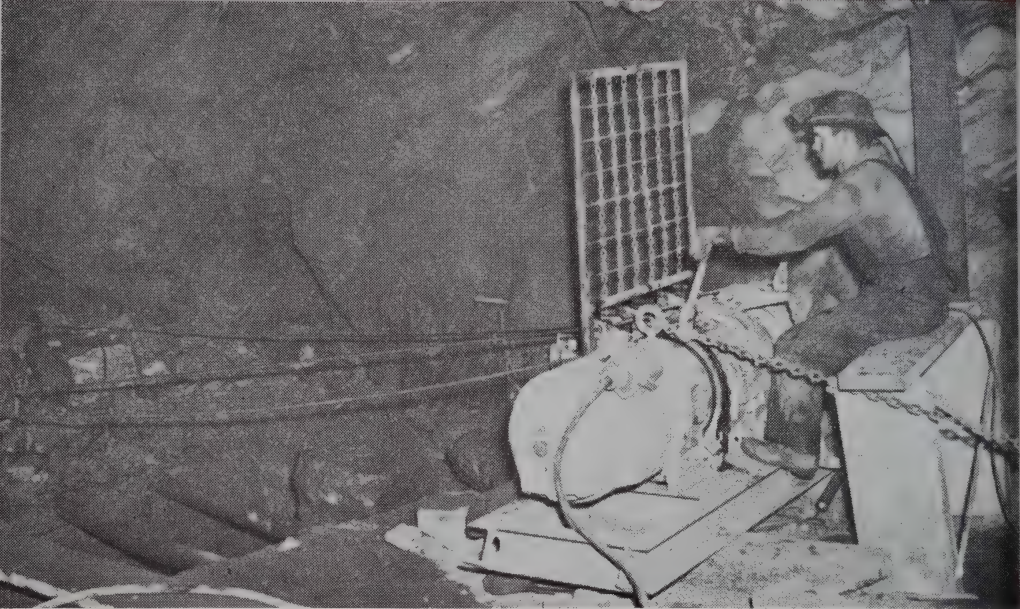
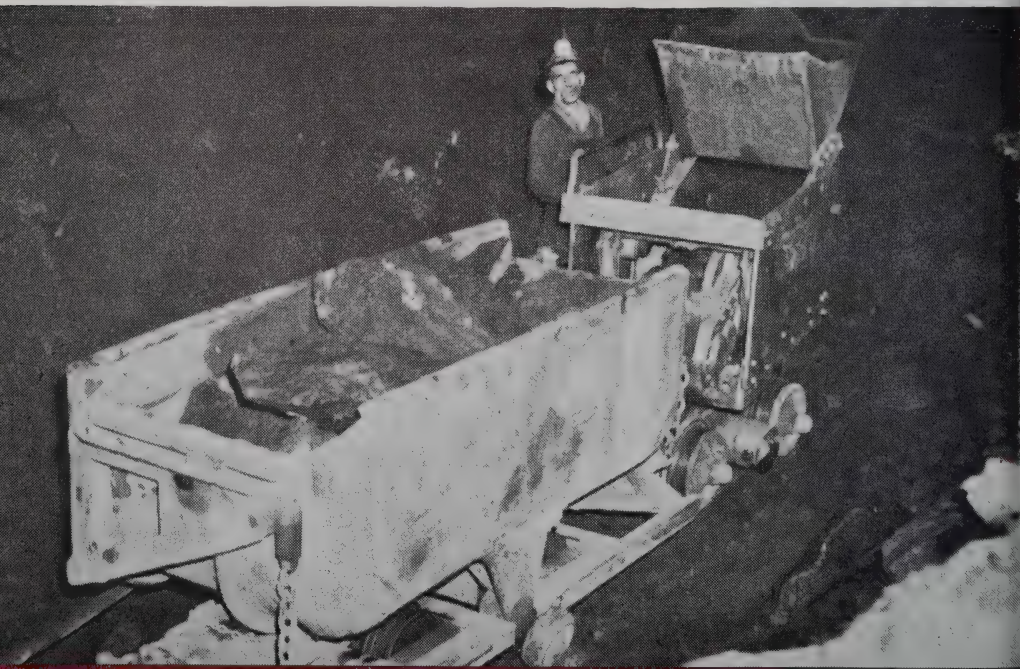


Photo by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company

Electric 3-drum slusher operating in a horizontal cut and fill stope (Homestake). Ore is moved horizontally by a scraper (on the left) to an ore pass covered by grizzly bars. The ore pass extends vertically to the chute on the level below. The floor under the slusher is laid on sand fill. Wendelin Aberle operating slusher, August 1959.

Power shovel mucking ore into a three ton car, Homestake Mine, February 1953. Omer Moorhead operating shovel.

Photo by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company



before the turn of the century; this in turn gave way to the water leyner which has been recently replaced by a lightweight jackhammer mounted on a portable pneumatic air feed leg. The hand-forged drill steel gave way to machine-forged drill steel, which in turn was replaced with detachable steel bits. At present tungsten carbide drill bits are in use, and as a result today one miner can accomplish the work of a dozen in the early days. Blasting is now being done by dynamite and electric millisecond delay blasting caps which control timing of detonation to .025 of a second which produces much better fragmentation, and prevents cut-off holes.

The first mining was by excavating in an open cut, but soon operations had to be done from shafts by underground methods. The square set method, originally designed for the Comstock Mines in Nevada, was brought to the Homestake and proved invaluable in the wide ore bodies. Because of excessive timber requirements, shrinkage stoping was introduced shortly after 1900—pillars were left between the shrinkage stopes, and these were mined later by square set stoping. At present, horizontal cut-and-fill stoping is being used. Open cut-and-fill stopes are used in newer parts of the mine, and square set cut-and-fill stoping is used to extract the remaining pillars. The mined-out stopes used to be filled by caving, then by dumping waste by hand-trammed cars, and at present by mill tailings sluiced hydraulically into the mine through rubber-lined pipe. The only hand-shoveling at present is for cleaning up spilled rock or sand. The development drifts and crosscuts are shoveled out by means of power shovels, while the ore in stopes is transported horizontally by means of electric slushers.

Today the Homestake is the only major active metal mine in Lawrence County. This mine is producing a record tonnage and a record gold production with fewer employees, but profits are considerably less than in former years due to rising costs of labor and materials.

The Homestake Mining Company production from 1876 through 1959 was 24,449,565 ounces of gold and 5,829,490 ounces of silver for a value of \$677,564,307.44.

The estimated total production of metals in the Black Hills from 1876 through 1959 is as follows:

	Total 1876-1959, Incl.
Gold	\$750,939,545
Silver	8,482,343
Lead	59,670
Zinc	56,406
Copper	36,466
Tungsten	1,348,687
Iron	410,767
	<hr/>
	\$761,333,884

Most of the above production came from the Lead-Deadwood area of Lawrence County—no wonder Lawrence County has been called the richest 100 square miles on earth.

I wish to acknowledge valuable criticism and suggestions from Messrs. J. O. Harder, E. G. Ross, George Hunter, Kenneth Kellar and Paul Miller in preparing this paper.

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AGRICULTURE, DAIRYING, RANCHING

by Henry Frawley

PIONEER SPEARFISH RANCHER

and Anne Frawley

STATE CHAIRMAN OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
SOUTH DAKOTA FEDERATED WOMEN'S CLUBS, 1958-1960



Lawrence County is said by its residents to be the most beautiful county in the state of South Dakota. The hills and valleys appealed to the early settlers, and the teeming animal life left little doubt of its immense value as a grazing country.

In 1876 the rapid increase in miners and prospectors created a demand for meat and dairy products. Several small droves of cattle were brought here for that purpose. Henry Weare, J. W. Dal, W. W. and Bud Driskill, L. A. Brown, Tony Day, the Connors brothers, Al and George Gray and George Pemberton were cattlemen who lived in Spearfish but ran their herds of cattle in Wyoming, Montana, and even Canada, as in the case of the Connors brothers. Fred Gray lived in the Queen City of the Black Hills but pastured his sheep elsewhere. F. H. Roose, J. L. Stewart, M. Haines of Crook City and E. Deffenbach and William Schoenfield of Deadwood had their cattle in western ranges.

Among the leading citizens of the new region were the cowboys, for the most part wild and hardy young men who had come to the frontier country in search of freedom and adventure. The cowboys worked from sixteen to eighteen hours a day rounding up the scattered cattle. In the round-ups the calves were branded and the ear of the animal cut in such a way as to denote ownership. The roundup began about the middle of May. It is said that the Texas longhorn cattle driven from Texas were so toughened by the experiences of precarious survival that they were fifty times more dangerous to footmen than the fiercest buffalo.

One of the large herds of cattle in the county belonged to Tom Mathews, Sr., Spearfish stockman and community builder. He ran 300 head on his Lookout Mountain pasture, and was the owner of one of the best ranches in the Spearfish district. Mr. Mathews also operated extensively in the Powder River country.

The Black Hills Livestock Association was formed in the spring of 1880, which was of material benefit to the stockmen of this locality.

In 1884 a cattlemen's convention was held at St. Louis. Delegates from Lawrence county ranchers attended.

Pierre became an important shipping point for outgoing cattle by the fall of 1885. In September of that year, 1,100 head of cattle from the ranch of Weare and Company arrived at Fort Pierre and were ferried across to the east side of the river. Five hundred of those cattle were to be shipped to the Chicago market and the balance driven to Fort Thompson. In 1884 J. J. Driskill and son shipped 127 cars of cattle in two weeks.

The cattlemen began to realize the need for better transportation facilities. In 1887 the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley railroad stretched its rails to Whitewood, and in 1890 to Belle Fourche, a large livestock shipping center. A Burlington line came through the hills to reach Spearfish in 1893. During the peak of the shipping season, two engines double-headed the heavy loads from Belle Fourche to handle the traffic.

The story of the calamitous winter of 1886-1887 will be long remembered. Winter came six weeks earlier than usual, holding the cattle ranges in its iron grip for more

than four months, leaving ruin and desolation for Dakota ranchers. Blizzard after blizzard left the temperature dropping to forty degrees below zero. The little grass from a dry summer was buried deep under successive layers of snow. New stock from Texas, Iowa and Minnesota succumbed first. There was also loss of human lives.

While the hard winter of 1886-1887 had brought about certain changes in the cattle business, other events tended to change the status of ranching in western South Dakota. In the early eighties homesteaders and farmers had begun to filter in and locate claims. Acting upon the strength of their legal title, they began to build fences around their tracts. This interfered with the freedom of the range and often cut off water holes from public use. Farms fenced in this manner were called "nests" and their occupants "nesters." Threats, wirecutters and Winchesters did not help the situation. Soon this began to kill the open range.

The 1885 legislature of the Territory of Dakota enacted a statute requiring western Dakota stockmen either to fence in and keep livestock under control or stand liable for any damage inflicted by them. The first "Herd Law" was passed in 1870, but the region west of the Missouri was exempt until 1885 when this strict fence and herd law was passed. The days of the open range when grass and water were as free as air to all comers was at an end.

The Dakota farmer took up a claim or bought a quarter section or more of land, and as a rule built a plain frame dwelling. In Lawrence County there are rock homes still standing, made from rock found on the land. A homesteader lived upon his claim five years to perfect his title and get his patent. He usually fenced part of his premises, planted some trees and broke sod for his first crop. Gradually the houses of newcomers dotted the horizon. The average space separating the farmsteads was about half a mile, although in the early period of settlement sometimes four families, each taking a quarter section as a homestead, built their temporary dwellings upon adjacent corners to be near together.

Albert Christensen of the Spearfish vicinity tells how his father, Ole, carried his plow on his back from Deadwood to his homestead southeast of Spearfish because oxen would

have taken two days whereas he made it in one day. Ole Christensen was the first to plow a furrow in that section. A breaking plow with two oxen was used, the grain was sown by hand. A harrow was made of oak branches and pulled by oxen. A cradle or scythe was used first to harvest the grain, then it was tied and shocked in bundles. A flail which looked like a long whip was used to get the grain out of the head.

By 1879 the gang plow had begun to displace the single plow, especially on the larger farms. Plowing in the hills was done in the spring or fall, the former if the stubble was needed for grazing.

Neil McArthur of Spearfish Valley had the first reaper and first binder; Fulton and Thomas, the first threshing machine, followed by McArthur. Twelve horses (six teams) were used to pull the threshing machine. In the St. Onge vicinity, Elham Smith (father of Alfred and Oscar Smith) had the first binder, an Osburn.

Rasmus Anderson, father of Frank and Albert, residing on the original homestead tract, operated the first blacksmith shop between Crook City and Minnesela. Mr. Anderson, being a blacksmith by trade, made and introduced the first duck-foot harrow in the county, to be pulled by a team of horses. Today this harrow is proudly preserved at the Anderson ranch. In those days Mr. Anderson charged only twenty-five cents to sharpen a plow laye, and often the farmer would bring his family with him. Mrs. Anderson played hostess to many of Rasmus' clients. In time they realized that it was not a very profitable enterprise, and they went into the dairy business. Selling butter at thirty cents a pound to the Hattenbach and Fish & Hunter groceries was more profitable than sharpening layes at twenty-five cents.

Wheat and oats were the early crops. As more people farmed, corn, barley and other grains were successfully raised. Due to the cold nights and lack of time for proper cultivation corn was first planted on a limited scale, until the middle of the 1900's. Albert Christensen is reputed to have planted the first big acreage, a twenty-acre field. The name of his seed corn was Rustler's White Dent. This was a meager beginning for the future corn acreage of the county. The acclaim and recognition that has been presented to Henry Carlson and son for raising the greatest number of

bushels of corn per acre in the county is most outstanding. The Carlson corn, 204.66 bushels per acre, was raised on irrigated land.

John Wells planted the first apple orchard in the county, and since then many fine apples have been produced throughout the county.

The Whitewood and St. Onge valleys raised oats and hay and found a good market in the Black Hills area. Much feed was needed for the oxen, mules and horses. On his farm near the Middle False Bottom schoolhouse, an early-day homesteader by the name of "Dutch John" planted the first alfalfa in the county. Charley Beck, who lived across the road, soon planted alfalfa on a larger scale.

Throughout the period of western expansion and development of the west, wheat has always been the chief frontier crop. There was an ever increasing demand for American flour, especially for that manufactured by the new patent process from number one hard wheat. The hills flour was highly valued. Spearfish had a grist mill in 1879, built by C. V. Gardner and Porter Warner. For years the flour from the Spearfish mill was marketed under the brand name "Charter Oak." About 1928 "Pride of the Hills" was added, and when the D. J. Toomey Company took over the lease, they added a brand, "Silver Star."

Hubert Dickey and James Pike leased the Spearfish Milling Company in 1921. Later Dan Toomey assumed ownership. At one time there was a flour mill in Whitewood, the last operators being the Good brothers.

Associated with the early dairy business was the ever dependable spring house. It was usually made of rock and located near a spring, hence the name. When a spring was not available, often it was necessary to dig a well and pump the water from the well into the spring house. Ample space was provided for cooling milk, cream and butter. In many instances the barrel churn and working table were conveniently located in the spring house. Each dairyman had his individual print for his butter, a name or design.

Methods in dairying improved about the middle 1890's. Milk was no longer skimmed by hand but with a separator. The churning of butter was done by hand by small operators, although larger dairies employed steam power. Butter was printed in rounded molds. A few had a press in which oblong

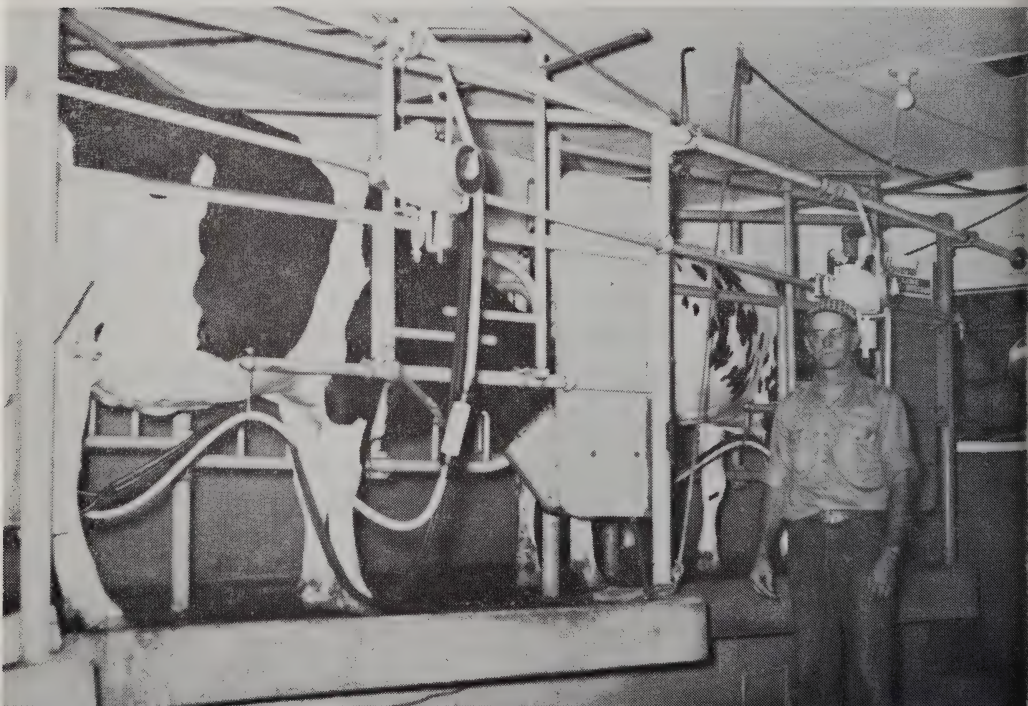


Photo by Mildred Fielder, 1960

Interior of old spring house on the early James Anderson ranch near Whitewood, Henry Frawley dipping his fingers into the water pool where cans of milk were cooled before refrigeration was available.

Modern milking parlor on the Louis Thomson dairy, Spearfish, August 5, 1960. The milk is pumped from the cow through glass pipes directly into a refrigerated tank in the adjoining room. Louis Thomson standing beside two of his dairy cows.

Photo by Mildred Fielder



pounds were made. In the early history of Lawrence County large scale operators milked as many as a hundred and twenty-five cows by hand. James Anderson, grandfather of Henry Frawley, was one who did so. This necessitated daily trips to Deadwood with the dairy products, a team of horses and spring wagons.

Other names associated with Spearfish of pioneer prominence are H. J. Weare, Bob Evans, Joe Cook, Dan Toomey, Pettigrew, Massey and others, men who were responsible for the early development and progress of Spearfish Valley.

During the territorial period some attention was given to sheep and horse ranching. In 1886 there were 16,960 head of sheep in Lawrence County. Mr. Sewright had 2,000 sheep on Whitewood Creek. Today Warren Johnson is the biggest sheep grower in the county.

According to Ernest Lown of Spearfish, whose father, William B. Lown, was a pioneer, Spearfish was headquarters for horses in this county. Morris Walsh had Percherons, as did John P. Gamun; Chris Nelson, Belgians; Yankie Reed, Clydesdales; Schlichting, the coach horses and horses for the Black Hills Brewery. Top quality draft horses were supplied the Homestake mine from Spearfish. There were no quarter or race horses in the very early days.

It was a familiar sight to see a few hogs in a crate securely attached to the settlers' wagons. The old timers depended to a great degree on butchered pork for their sustenance. During the winter pork was preserved very well. For summer use the pork was cured, employing the old brine process and later smoked and stored in smoke houses.

The first county fair was held in Deadwood in 1889, and then permanently moved to Spearfish. These fairs mark the first effective effort to improve the general condition of the farmer. The exhibits of homecrafts, fruits, grains, vegetables, horses, cattle and other products of the country were of exceptional quality and told better than words of the possibilities and unusual opportunities of this region.

Among the descendants of the early cattlemen, farmers and dairymen, several families are living after close to a century on the same land their forebears homesteaded or purchased. They are, in Centennial Valley—Henry J. Frawley and son, Pete Hanson and Oscar Carlson, Mrs. Charles Pfrunder and sons; Spearfish—Albert Christensen, Charles

Crago, Allen Evans and son, Warren E. Johnson, William Kerwin, and the Nicholas brothers; St. Onge—Frank and Albert Anderson, the Derosier brothers, Jim and Hans Fabricius, R. W. Foglesong, Leo Quillian, Mrs. Elmira Furois Reddick, Felix Ryther, George Tetrault and sons; Whitewood—Mrs. Sena Wolfsberg Furois, Willard Gralapp, Walter Grant and son, Mrs. Mary McMurray; Roubaix—George Fredrickson and son, Byron Hall, Emil and Arne Hill, Mrs. Nancy Holson, Vino Salmon; Nahant—Mrs. Albert Melchert (Trathen); and Dumont—Mrs. Rhoda Coleman Renchin.

Miracles of science and mechanics may excite the imagination of anyone looking at the tremendous changes transforming agriculture. Sometimes it might appear that nature itself is being changed. If we look closer, there is a central theme to the far flung ranching enterprises, whether it be cattle or sheep, dairy cows or farming. It is to make the best possible use of what nature offers in giving nature a hand where improvements can be made.

The early day cattlemen would envy the present day stock producer with the many services at his command. At the time of branding there are the calf tables and squeeze chutes, for example.

Alfalfa seed has been an exceptional cash crop in this section when the years are right. Yields have run as high as \$245.00 on a single acre. There is in addition the fine feed from alfalfa hay for dairy, beef and pork production.

Since 1941 Lawrence County has had the services of a soil conservationist. Much of the land in Lawrence County has steep slopes due to the Black Hills uplift. Rainfall generally is higher than on the plains. These factors contribute to water erosion hazards on all lands when their natural protective cover is disturbed, making water erosion control practices of utmost importance. When the vegetable cover is unable to hold the soil in place, terraces, contours and erosion control dykes or dams are put to work. The first terraces were built in 1944. Since then over a hundred miles of terraces and many diversion dykes and dams have been built.

Of the 512,000 acres in Lawrence County, approximately 270,000 acres are federally owned lands. The United States Forest Service manages the bulk of these acres for timber



Photo by courtesy of Henry Frawley

Tremendous strides in mechanizing farming in Lawrence County have been made in even the last twenty-five years. This photo shows part of the threshing operation on the Henry Frawley ranch, September 1934. From left to right: Vince Senteman, Oscar Smith, Swede Anderson.

Baling hay on the Henry Frawley ranch between Deadwood and Spearfish, July 1960. Lester Crist on tractor.

Photo by Mildred Fielder



production. Of the remaining 242,000 acres, 45,000 are crop lands, 135,000 range lands, and 62,000 woodlands, townsites and the like.

One of the greatest and finest changes in agriculture has been in the dairy business. Many improvements have been made for the betterment of humanity in this field, the first and most important being pasteurization. Other changes have been gradual. Advancements came after World War II, including Grade A milk which came in 1949. Grade A brought about a major change in equipment and management, changes from cans and can coolers to Grade A barns, milk parlors, to bulk tank coolers with pipe line. With these changes, the milk comes from the cow to the creamery without air contaminating the beverage. Lawrence County now has one of the most modern up-to-date dairy areas in the state.

The number of dairy cows has fluctuated and the milk production per cow varied from a low of 2,900 pounds in 1934 to a high of 5,200 pounds in 1959. Production has increased 1,000 pounds per cow in the last nine years due to increased interest in the dairy business through better breeding, feeding and management. Lawrence County has some outstanding dairy herds and one of the strongest Dairy Herd Improvement Associations in the state, supervised by Chris Genteman, Spearfish. There are dairy cattle in the county producing 10,000,000 pounds of milk per year.

Spearfish Valley still raises fine vegetables, apples, strawberries and raspberries. In 1926, 60,000 boxes of apples were raised in the valley.

Chickens raised on Lawrence County farms decreased from the record high of 70,000 birds in 1943 to an all time low of 16,000 in 1959. Egg production gradually increased from 1940 to 1944. Since 1944 egg production has shown a downward trend. In 1944 about 4 million eggs were produced compared with 2,300,000 in 1959.

Most livestock in Lawrence County is marketed through livestock auctions, direct to order buyers, packing plants and terminal public markets at Sioux Falls and Sioux City. Production of livestock and livestock products is an important phase of Lawrence County agriculture. In 1955 about 81% of all farm products sold were livestock or related products.

Cattle numbers were record high in 1934 with 18,900 and decreased to the record low in 1937 when 9,200 head were reported for Lawrence County. The drought of the thirties accounted for this drop. Cattle numbers increased to 17,000 head in 1956. For 1960 there are 20,800 head.

Milk cow numbers were at a record high in 1934 with 4,100 head. Since 1934 milk cow numbers have decreased to a low of 1,700 head for 1952, 1953 and 1957. There were 1,600 in 1959 and 1,500 head in 1960.

Hog numbers vary more from year to year than do the number of cattle. A high of 6,300 head was estimated for 1927. This compares with a low of 700 head in 1958 and in 1960. The large changes in hog numbers can be partially accounted for because the number of hogs can be easily increased or decreased to keep pace with changes in grain feed supplies and market conditions.

Sheep and lambs have been on an upward trend since 1948 when there were 2,300 head. The record high of 26,000 head was reported in 1935, and in 1960 there were 14,800 head.

Horse and mule numbers have decreased steadily. On January 1, 1927 horse and mule numbers at 2,800 head were record high for the county. In 1955 horse and mule numbers had declined to a low of 700 head.

Lawrence County has many kinds of soils and soil materials due to different conditions of geology, topography, vegetation and climate. Production of field crops is an important phase of Lawrence County agriculture. In 1955 field crops made up about 19% of the Lawrence County cash farm income.

The distribution of total farm land for Lawrence County, according to the same census was: alfalfa hay, 46%; corn, 9%; 22%; pasture, 73%; wild hay 2% and all other land 3%. The distribution of crop land acreage for Lawrence County according to the same census was: alfalfa hay, 46%; corn 9%; oats, 9%; spring wheat, 8%; other crops (other hay and summer fallow) 28%.

For the area which includes Lawrence County, most of the small grains are usually planted during April. Planting is completed, weather permitting, by the second week in May. Most of the corn is planted during May and first week of June. Spring wheat planting is in April and first

week in May. Harvesting of crops starts about the second week in June with the cutting of alfalfa hay and continues through November when a few farmers are finishing corn picking. There is some harvesting of oats during the second week in July and it is completed by the end of the second week in August. A little over two-fifths of the corn is harvested for silage. Most silos are filled during the first three weeks of September. Winter wheat is harvested in July, and spring wheat in August.

Planted	1959	Harvested
2,600 acres	Corn	2,100 acres
2,700 acres	Oats	900 acres (hail, drought)
4,900 acres	All Wheat	3,000 acres (hail, drought)
800 acres	Barley	120 acres (hail, drought)
130 acres	Rye	100 acres (hail, drought)

In 1959 there were 26,200 acres of all kinds of hay (alfalfa, wild) harvested. In 1957 and 1958 there were 900 acres of alfalfa seed and 300 acres of the same seed harvested. In 1957, 90 acres of sweetclover and in 1958, 20 acres of sweetclover.

There has been a sharp increase in the use of electric power on the farms. Ninety-seven per cent had electric power in 1954, compared with 74% in 1950. In 1954, 72% of the farms had running water.

The agricultural activity of Lawrence County continues to play a very important part in the economy of the Black Hills.

Ranching and farming is a wonderful life. It is a work of love. Farmers are the sowers of the seed and the tillers of the soil; for them the seed is holy and the soil sacred. They plant the seed with reverence and cultivate the land with care. They know the seed has life, and life is of God. They help to feed people all over the nation and all over the world.

For their help in contributing information on this chapter, acknowledgement is made by Mr. and Mrs. Frawley to the following sources: Mrs. Amy Adams, Black Hills Teachers College Library; Mrs. Ella Toomey Anderson, Mr. Gilbert Bierwagen, Mr. Harold E. Briggs, Mr. Albert Christensen, Mr. Albert Knowlton, Mr. Ervin Kurtz, Mr. Ernest Lown, Mr. Henry Onsgard, Dr. Hyman Palais, Ph.D.; Mr. Ray Rezek, and the Statistical Series, Lawrence County Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture and South Dakota State Department of Agriculture.

LUMBER AND TIMBER

by C. A. Polley

MANAGER, LUMBER AND TIMBER DEPARTMENT, HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY



The first westward explorers found the Black Hills an island of wooded mountains in a treeless prairie that extended in all directions. To the Verëndrye brothers, first white men to see them, the Black Hills were "a wilderness of pine covered mountains, hills, canyons, gulches and ravines interspersed with fertile valleys, natural parks laced with clear streams—a verdant oasis in the midst of a barren undulating prairie." The area that was to be Lawrence County on the northeastern flank of the hills was richly endowed with a fine stand of ponderosa pine timber that was to play an important part in the development of the area and continues to do so.

To the first placer miners in Deadwood Gulch in the spring of 1876 lack of lumber was a great handicap. It was needed for housing, for construction of sluice boxes, flumes and general construction purposes. At the very first whipsaws filled part of the need, but with the pressing demand steam sawmills were soon enroute by wagon train from the nearest railheads, three arriving in late May of 1876, being freighted in by ox team.

E. G. Dudley established the first sawmill in Deadwood. His mill was freighted by wagon train from Cheyenne; and for protection from the Indians he organized a party of forty men to escort it. Several times during the trip north the party was attacked. Once even troops had to be called from Fort Robinson to help them get to their destination. But Deadwood needed lumber and the mill was finally erected in Whitewood Gulch in what is now the lower first ward of Deadwood, in the district then and for some years later called Montana City. Soon several sawmills were busy trying to supply the great demand. Those early mills were circular headrig outfits powered by steam, using wood for fuel. They were set up near the source of timber with the logs being skidded directly to the mill-site by horses or bull teams. As the immediate area was logged out the mills moved further up the gulch closer to a fresh supply of trees.

Soon after the first rush of locating placer claims, underground mines such as the Homestake were established. There were many of these and they are well enumerated in another section of this book. From the very beginning these mines were heavy users of timber for mining purposes such as drift sets, ties, stope timbers and for the construction of head frames, mills and other mining structures.

The demand for mine timbers in the Deadwood-Lead-Central area soon overtaxed the transportation available, which then consisted of horse-drawn wagons or sleighs, depending on the season. Additional transportation became available in 1881 with the beginning of construction of the Black Hills and Fort Pierre Railway system built by the Homestake Mining Company for the purpose of hauling mine timbers and fuel wood, which were being needed in increasing amounts as time went on. It must be emphasized that the use of wood for fuel was a very important aspect of the lumbering industry in the early days of Lawrence County. All power was supplied by steam and the only fuel available was wood in the form of cord wood.

The Black Hills and Fort Pierre Railroad was a narrow gauge (3-ft.) and was built for the primary purpose of supplying the Homestake Mine at Lead with mine timber and fuel. The road ran in a southerly and easterly direction to



Used by permission of Homestake Mining Company

First load of wood, 1881, on Black Hills & Fort Pierre Railroad, December 1881.

The Homestake sawmill in Spearfish, 1960

Photo by Don Howe, by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company



reach Piedmont, South Dakota, by 1890, a distance of about thirty-seven miles. Later, in 1898, branch lines were built to Nemo and Este and in 1907 the line was extended from Este to the Merritt Ranger Station. The stations along the route were Whitetail, Whitetail Summit, Reno, Englewood, Woodville, Colorado Siding, Galena Junction, Brownsville, Perry, Bucks, Elk Creek, Mowatt, Runkel, Crystal Cave, Jones, Doyles, Calcite, Miller and Gardners.

In the early days of lumbering in Lawrence County mine timbers were peeled and hand-hewed in the woods where the tree was felled, the timbers being hauled to the nearest siding along the Black Hills and Fort Pierre Railroad for shipment to the mine at Lead. To supply the early mills with logs, horses and oxen were used to skid the logs to landings where, if not skidded directly to the mill, they were loaded on wagons for haul to the sawmill site. As mentioned above these early mills were steam operated circular headrigs of small capacity. Because of the lack of transportation, camps were established at each mill site to house and feed the men. The typical lumber camp consisted of the few cabins for the loggers and sawmill hands, the cook shack and dining space, barns for the horses and a blacksmith's shop. Remnants of these camps can still be found in the remote portions of the hills.

Until well into the early part of this century logging was done with man power and animal power. The trees were felled by hand, using cross-cut saws, trimmed by hand with axes, and bucked into log lengths with cross-cut saws. The logs were skidded to loading points or landings and loaded on horse-drawn wagons, using the cross-haul method whereby the logs were rolled onto the load in the bite of chains which were pulled by horses on the opposite side of the load. Transportation to the mill or railroad siding was by horse-drawn wagons or bob sleds, depending on the season.

Today one man with a light power saw fells, trims, and bucks the trees into log lengths faster than two men could when using hand tools. The logs are now skidded by powerful tractors and loaded with power equipment on large diesel trucks for transportation to the mill. At the sawmill most of the lumber handling formerly done by hand is now done by machinery, much of it automatic.

As we look at the huge and enormously expensive equipment that we use and find necessary for logging today, we are prompted to view with great respect the accomplishments of our forebears who did a tough job very well with what they had to work with at the time.

In the early days mine timbers and lumber were bought from timber contractors and sawmill operators who hauled their products to sidings along the narrow gauge road to be picked up by the train for transportation to Lead. At that time all mine timber was hand-hewn and peeled in the woods with the tops, cull logs and snags being worked into cord wood for fuel. Many small contractors and farmers worked up ties and lagging as a side line, as there was a ready market along the railroad.

Lawrence County lumbering has always been very closely connected with the Homestake Mining Company operation, the company being the principal purchaser of lumber products in the form of mine timbers and fuel.

In 1898 the annual timber requirement of the Homestake Mining Company was approximately 5,000,000 board feet per year in mine timber and lumber and 20,000 cords of fuel wood which was used for the generation of steam at the milling plants and for the burning of lime at Calcite.

Hewn timbers were not entirely satisfactory and in 1898 a circular headrig mill was built by the Homestake Mining Company on Jim Creek at Este. In 1913 a new seven-foot band mill was built at Nemo and the circular sawmill at Este was shut down. The Nemo mill operated and supplied Homestake needs until the late 20's when the supply was supplemented with the production of a new circle mill at Moskee, Wyoming. As the size of the mine increased and the need for mine timber became greater it was necessary to construct another circle mill of about 20,000 board feet per day capacity at Camp 5 near Galena. This mill was operated for several years until the tract of timber tributary to it was cut.

As the timber supply in the Nemo area became less it was necessary for the mill at Moskee, Wyoming to take over a greater proportion of the production for mine uses, and in 1939 it was decided by the company to concentrate all saw-milling operations at Spearfish and shut down both the Moskee and the Nemo plants.



Photo by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company

Loading ponderosa pine logs on a Homestake Mining Company truck in the company's Black Hills Tree Farm, 1960.

Homestake Mining Company truck heading for company's Spearfish sawmill with load of ponderosa pine logs cut in the company's Black Hills Tree Farm, 1960.

Photo by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company



The new Homestake Mining Company sawmill built at Spearfish in 1939 is of modern design with a band-saw headrig and band resaw together with the necessary auxiliary equipment. The prime purpose of the mill is mine timber production with lumber production being secondary. The daily one-shift capacity is approximately 60,000 board feet of lumber and mine timber.

On February 22, 1897, by proclamation, President Grover Cleveland set aside the Black Hills Forest Reserve and September 19, 1898 the Reserve was put under administration. The Reserve included all the unappropriated federal lands within the boundaries designated by the proclamation. While the Black Hills National Forest was not the first forest reserve formed, it was one of the very earliest and was a part of the general movement to set aside unappropriated federal lands for forestry purposes to be managed for the production of timber and the protection of the timber supply from fire, disease and insect ravages. Several bad fires in the Black Hills region through the nineties and the onset of the great Black Hills beetle infestation focused attention on the Black Hills area and pointed up the fact that our forests weren't inexhaustible unless properly protected.

The Black Hills National Forest, with Lawrence County, enjoys the distinction of being the first in the United States where regulated cutting was done. The first sale of stumpage from any national forest was on an area in the drainage basin of Este Creek about four miles southwest of the present town of Nemo. It is widely known as Case No. 1 and was made to the Homestake Mining Company on February 28, 1898. This sale marked the beginning of forestry practice in the Black Hills and the inception of scientific forest management in Lawrence County of which approximately 60% is within the Black Hills Forest Reserve.

Forest fires have always been an active threat to our woods and a good many thousand acres in our county have been burned with the resultant loss of production from the burned areas for a great many years. Our fires have become more severe during the last thirty to forty years because of the prevalence of thick second growth stands as compared to the more open mature stands found when the county

was first settled. The recent fire of September, 1959, near the city of Deadwood is a prime example of the severity of this ever present threat.

While the loss to fire has been severe, it does not equal the loss of footage to insect infestation. Like the Biblical plague of locusts, vast hordes of insects have sporadically devastated whole sections of the Black Hills forests. The most recent serious build-up of *Dendroctonus ponderosae* or Black Hills beetle was in 1947 and 1949 when approximately three hundred thousand dollars were spent on control measures. This beetle is endemic, occasionally building up to epidemic proportions. As the name might imply the beetle is not peculiar to just this area, but is also found in all pine forests in the west. The first serious study made of the habits and life cycle of this insect was made during the great beetle epidemic of 1898 to 1908 in the Black Hills, hence the name Black Hills beetle. It is estimated that approximately one and one-half billion feet of timber were destroyed by the infestation of this beetle from the years 1898 to 1908. A huge amount of timber was destroyed in Lawrence County during that period. Control measures and attempts to salvage the dead timber brought about the construction of another railroad solely for logging purposes, particularly to salvage timber killed by beetles. This line, called the McLaughlin Tie & Timber Company, originated at Nahant on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, and ran up Little Rapid Creek canyon northwest of Rochford into Wyoming and terminated in Deer Valley not far from the present town of Moskee, Wyoming.

At the present time Lawrence County does not produce as large an amount of saw timber as in the early days because a large acreage of the county, particularly the more accessible parts, was cut for lumber, mine timber and fuel wood. The harvest of the second growth is now just getting well under way on a sustained yield basis for the production of posts, poles and pulpwood. Pulpwood production has become quite important within just the last year or two within the county. The two most modern and progressive pressure treating plants for posts, poles, and timber in the Black Hills are now in operation in Lawrence County, namely the Northwest Wood Preserving Company of Whitewood and the Western Pine Treating Company located on the old smelter slag pile at Deadwood.

While saw log production in the county is not great at present the Homestake Sawmill at Spearfish processes approximately 25% of the total amount of the timber cut in the entire Black Hills annually. The logs now come in mainly from other areas of the Black Hills forest, primarily from the Moskee-Grand Canyon area in Wyoming, west of Tinton and the Bear Lodge Mountain district north of Sundance, Wyo. Lumbering continues to be an important industry in the county with a payroll second only to that of the Homestake Mine. With the enlightened cutting practices now in use, and with the forested areas being managed on a sustained yield cutting basis to produce a perpetual supply of timber, the industry should continue to prosper and produce livelihood for a great many citizens of Lawrence County.

The forests furnish important water shed protection, and provide a beautiful and accessible area for recreation purposes. Hunters and fishermen know them to be the habitat for thousands of deer and wild turkeys, with a bountiful supply of trout in forest streams for the fisherman.



Photo by courtesy of the Black Hills Passion Play

Crucifixion Scene, Josef Meier as the Christus

THE BLACK HILLS PASSION PLAY

by Clay C. Curran

RETIRED PRINCIPAL OF LEAD HIGH SCHOOL



After an absence of twenty-five years a graduate of the Black Hills Teachers College returned to the scenes of his alma mater with his wife and children to see the Black Hills Passion Play. A large sign over the highway near the city limits proclaimed, "Spearfish, South Dakota, Home of the Black Hills Passion Play." The visitor was impressed with the evidence of progress. Modern motels and cafes were on every hand. Signs marked the route through town to the amphitheater on the west side of the city. The large paved area on the hill for automobiles was rapidly filling under the direction of parking attendants. With hundreds of other patrons the visitors passed through the entrance and were directed down a low flight of steps to comfortable seats. With the help of the printed program the visitors identified the buildings on the long stage. Beginning on the far left they located the City Gate, Bethany House, Pilate's Palace, the large Central Stage, the Temple, High Priest Council House, Garden of Gethsemane, the Tomb, and far to the right the road and bridge leading to Golgotha and Mount Calvary. A reverent and quiet mood was produced by the sound of church chimes and sacred music.

Shortly after dusk the curtain opened on the central stage, revealing under a spotlight a solitary figure in a white robe who recited the prologue to the play:

"Oh ye Children of God,
Ye, who live and breathe in His infinite love,
Open your hearts, and receive with childlike confidence His
great message.

He who became flesh through the word and lived among mankind;

Whose teachings will endure forever as balm for each and every soul;

Whose pure love all embraces, all understands, and all forgives;

He calls you all to entrust yourselves under His almighty protection.

Oh thou mortals, strengthen thy belief in the divinity of God,

Accept His will and love one another,

Place yourselves in harmony with Him;

Be at once cheerful and serious,

Live and work in His name while it is yet day;

Then can you repeat with the Apostle:

'I have learned, in whatever state I am, therewith to be content.'

That which you will experience today, Oh People,

Treasure well within your hearts;

Let it be the light to lead you

Until your last day."

Our visitors were deeply impressed. Since they had heard of the Oberammergau Passion Play, they wondered how a passion play happened to be showing in Spearfish. To answer this question, readers are asked at this point to turn their thoughts from the present to the past.

The historical roots of the Black Hills Passion Play run back for over 700 years to Luenen in the province of Westphalia, Germany, where in 1242 a group of monks of the Cappenberg Monastery first depicted events of the life of Christ in dramatic form during the Easter season. The monks acted both male and female parts. The Luenen Passion Play enjoys the distinction of being the oldest of other European passion plays including the well known Oberammergau play produced every ten years. About 400 years later in the 17th century, parts in the Luenen play were assigned to lay actors chosen on the basis of moral fitness and ability. About that time the practice of training the offsprings to succeed adults in important character parts became a tradition.

Josef Meier, director and owner of the Black Hills Passion Play, first appeared as the Christ Child in the Luenen play when only ten weeks old. He next played the part of Christ the Youth in the temple before the Hebrew scholars. Josef, now of the seventh generation of the Meier family playing parts in the Luenen play, was coached by his father, Heinrich Meier, to succeed him as the Christus at the age of twenty-four in the Luenen play.

In February 1932 Meier brought the Luenen play to America. He was a second year medical student at the time, and unfavorable political and economic conditions in Germany forced Meier to make the play his career in America. A group of ten German actors sailed with Meier to the United States. The change from the German tongue to English was a big problem for the German-born actors. The German language has none of the sounds used in English when pronouncing such words as "the," "this," and "there." Meier stated that he had to learn to start biting his tongue between his front teeth to properly pronounce the difficult words and avoid the German accent. His business manager, Harold Rogers, who has been with the play for many years, said that during the early years he frequently heard Meier practicing English pronunciations late at night after others of the company were asleep. Meier once said that he realized he had mastered English when he began to have dreams in English. Aside from the task of learning to speak the English tongue, translation of the lines of the play required long hours of work. Meier discovered that his first translation was too stiff and lacked the feeling of idiomatic American speech because he had been in this country such a short time. Consequently he abandoned the first version and brought out the translation used today.

The early years in America were very difficult. In addition to the language problem, financial returns were meager because America was in the grip of a business depression. Speaking their parts in halting English, the cast gave the first public performance in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and next followed with a tour of eastern cities. Members of the cast handled stage property, repaired scenery and costumes, and kept the production going in spite of all handicaps.

"The important thing," Josef Meier reminded the cast, "is that the people go home carrying in their hearts the memory of the world's greatest story."

According to Harold Rogers, "Those were the depression years for us, and I signed on as an actor when some of the original cast returned to Germany. We'd give a performance in a town, Josef would pay the bills, carefully divide the rest of the money between us, leaving just enough to take us to the next town. We worked at the most menial odd jobs in our off hours, anything to keep going."

Josef Meier became an American citizen in 1938, and after 28 years he is the only player left of the original cast who came to America. Some returned to Germany as they felt unable to surmount the language barrier and others retired. Replacements have been drawn from the American stage.

An early day crisis occurred in 1935 when the company was playing in Wilmington, Delaware. The woman who played the role of Mary Magdalen became ill and could not appear. Meier asked a theatrical agency for a replacement. The agency sent Miss Clare Hume, the only daughter of the well known Eddy Hume, a famous musical comedian of his day, and Mrs. Hume, the former Frances Cossar, a star of many productions staged by her husband. Miss Hume turned out to be perfect for the role of Mary Magdalen, and during the first year she alternately played every woman's part in the play. After she became Mrs. Josef Meier and their daughter was born, she assumed the role of Mary, mother of Jesus, permanently. She has not missed a performance in 24 years.

Their only child, Johanna, grew up in the environment of the play. During the first year in Spearfish in 1938 Johanna appeared as the infant Jesus. During her youth she played the part of Salome who danced artistically in the court of King Herod. She is now in early womanhood and enjoying a career in vocal music. She was recently graduated from the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, and now plans for professional opera work. She gave a public vocal recital at the Black Hills Teachers College one evening during the summer of 1959 which was an artistic triumph.

During the years prior to 1937 when the play was con-

tinually on the road from coast to coast, Josef Meier was looking for a permanent site for an amphitheater where outdoor performances could be staged during the summer season. Events leading to the choice of the Black Hills began in December 1937 when the Luenen Passion Play was giving a series of performances in Sioux City, Iowa. It was planned to be the closing engagement of the month as Meier and members of the cast were looking forward to spending the Christmas holidays in Chicago. However, Leo Craig with a group from the Knights of Columbus of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, called on Meier with an invitation to bring the play to Sioux Falls for a series of performances before Christmas. Meier was reluctant to accept the offer as he felt the time was too short for advertising and promotion of admission sales. Craig assured Meier that his organization would guarantee enough patronage to meet the financial problem. The Sioux Falls sponsors were successful for the receipts exceeded expectations.

While showing in Sioux Falls, Meier met the Reverend C. M. Austin, chaplain at the state penitentiary, who invited Meier to address the prisoners in the auditorium on Sunday. Meier accepted and was so well pleased with the attitude of the audience and stage facilities of the auditorium that he offered to give a free performance of the Passion Play as a Christmas gift to the prisoners. Austin was very willing, but first obtained the approval of the warden and governor of the state. The performance was reverently received by the prisoners, who were especially impressed with an incident on the march to Golgotha. When the Christus fell under the heavy burden of the cross and Mary rushed to his assistance to discover in anguish that the man was her own son, the audience was hushed with emotion. As the play closed armed guards were standing in the exits but the warden waved them aside. "You could open the gates now and they wouldn't leave," he said. "It is almost as though they had seen the Lord."

While in Sioux Falls, Leo Craig urged Meier to consider the Black Hills of South Dakota as a summer home for the Passion Play. Meier accepted the suggestion and sent his advance agent, Forrest Creighton, to investigate places which would be suitable for a permanent location. As the business management of the play was in financial straits, it was

necessary to ask interested sponsors of the possible location for advance financial support in order to bring the play into the Black Hills for a trial run. Efforts to find sponsors in Rapid City, Hot Springs and Custer failed for various reasons.

Creighton next visited Spearfish, and his efforts there would have probably failed if it had not been for the lively interest of Guy Bell, a Spearfish businessman. As a small boy in a rural area in North Dakota, Bell attended a Sunday school class taught by his mother. She occasionally talked with enthusiasm about the great Oberammergau Passion Play. While her interest was based on her reading about the play in Europe, it was sufficient to make a lasting impression on her son, who realized more than anyone else in Spearfish the unusual opportunity of bringing such a great play to Spearfish and the Black Hills. Two thousand dollars were needed to underwrite the proposition. Bell made his own pledge and persuaded other business and professional men in Spearfish to contribute.

Accordingly, Josef Meier and his company arrived in Spearfish from Chicago in August for a series of performances in Woodburn Hall of the Black Hills Teachers College. The first performance was given Sunday evening, August 28, 1938, before an audience of only 88 paying customers. However, word spread around Spearfish and neighboring towns about the very high dramatic quality of the play and the superb acting of the cast, with the result that the company played to packed audiences at the remaining nine performances that summer.

The Luenen play soon became known officially as the Black Hills Passion Play of America. Before leaving Spearfish for the fall tour, plans were made for the following summer. Guy Bell, with the help of other citizens, raised money for a site on a hillside which had good natural acoustic properties on the west side of town. Under Meier's direction, construction was started on stage buildings, fences, gates and plank seats. The project represented an investment of about \$3,900.00. A drive was organized for an advance sale of admission tickets for the 1939 season which was successful. The management was encouraged by the support of the public in attendance and within the next few

years, Meier was able to refund the money invested by Bell and other citizens. As yearly attendance and receipts continued to increase, thousands of dollars were invested in stage equipment, electric lighting, concrete steps, comfortable seats, trees, shrubbery, animals, barns, a community house for supernumeraries back stage, sound amplification, and enlargement and paving of the parking area.

The cast includes 35 professional actors with speaking parts, and from 150 to 200 local people for the big scenes. Special non-speaking parts, handled with regularity by people of Spearfish who serve without compensation, include roles as priests, disciples, Herod girls, temple dancers, Pilate girls, Mary girls, Mary Magdalen girls, temple guards, merchants, Roman guards, standard bearers, children in the Bethany scene, and boys in charge of donkeys, sheep and camels. Large numbers of men, women and children are used in street scenes during the Triumphal Entry, the trial before Pilate, and March to Golgotha. Community organizations in neighboring towns took turns supplying these extras for a few years, but in recent years the churches of Spearfish supply the extras for the citizen mob scenes. At the end of the season each church is paid for the service according to the number of persons supplied.

The play, depicting the seven last days of the life of Jesus of Nazareth, consists of twenty-two scenes and lasts two and a half hours. The highlights of the twenty-two scenes are the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, Farewell at Bethany, the Last Supper, Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, trials before High Priests, Pilate and King Herod, the Carrying of the Cross to Golgotha, Crucifixion and Burial, and finally the Glorious Ascension. An impressive musical score played on an organ includes selections by Wagner, Bizet, Handel, Mozart, Bach and other famous composers. Costumes and properties are in harmony with the period and places where Jesus lived. Most spectators are deeply impressed with the fundamental religious teaching of a play in which the greatest character, both human and divine, who ever lived sacrificed his life on a cross as atonement for the sins of mankind. Many people forget they are spectators or participants in a play, but feel actually present at the historic events. This was the experience of the writer

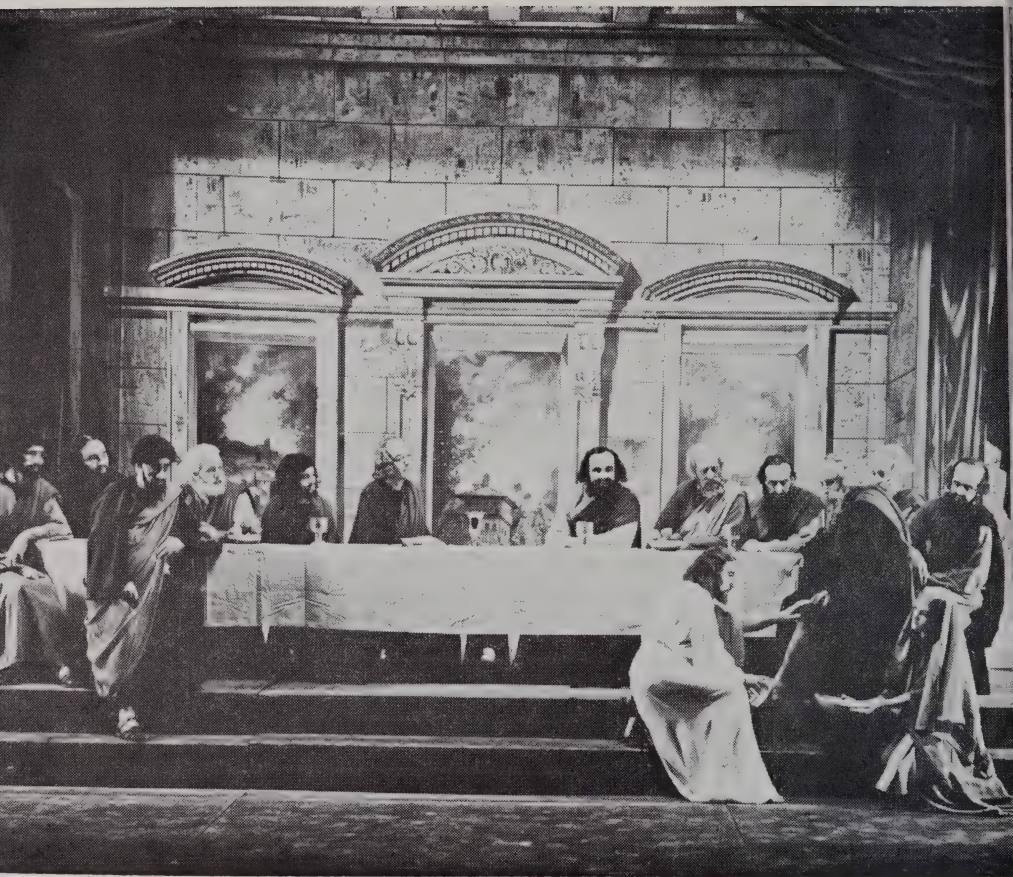


Photo by courtesy of the Black Hills Passion Play

The Last Supper Scene

of this chapter and Mrs. Curran who on many occasions have watched the performance from the audience, and participated as supernumeraries. Very definitely the play has a strong constructive religious influence.

Except for five years during World War II, 1943-1947, the Black Hills Passion Play has given performances every summer in the Spearfish amphitheater since the initial year in 1939. Total attendance has increased each year. The attendance of 93,000 in the summer of 1959 was more than three times the total attendance in 1948. As an attraction to summer tourists the play stands high along with the Shrine of Democracy on Mount Rushmore, and the tours of the surface works of the Homestake Mining Company. In 1952 a permanent amphitheater for the play was completed near Lake Wales, Florida, for a winter run during February, March and April. It is there advertised as the Black Hills Passion Play. The name Black Hills now has meaning to the popular mind as an attractive summer vacation place in South Dakota. The advertising of the Black Hills has been further augmented by the fall tours of the Black Hills Passion Play in which performances are given in cities of the United States and Canada. The church magazine, "Presbyterian Life," for March 15, 1960, states, "The Black Hills Passion Play has been enthusiastically received by audiences throughout the land and is now firmly established as an American institution."

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The writer of this chapter on the Black Hills Passion Play is indebted to a number of persons for information and encouragement in its preparation: to Josef Meier, the Christus of the Passion Play, for interesting details and review of the manuscript; to Harold Rogers and Mrs. Alexia Gordinier of the Passion Play business staff for special information; to Guy Bell of Spearfish for his story on how his early religious training motivated his efforts to bring the Passion Play to Spearfish; to Miss Dorette Darling of the Homestake Library for the use of a file of clippings; to Mrs. Elmer Pontius of the Deadwood Public Library for the loan of a master's thesis by Miss Mary Craig on the Passion Play; to Mrs. Louise Curran and her sister, Mrs. Ruth Pile, for a large collection of clippings and printed pamphlets about the play; and the valuable help of my wife, Louise G. Curran, for correction of errors and constructive criticism of the first draft of the manuscript.



Photo used by permission of Mrs. James O'Hara, Deadwood

Mrs. Canoteson of Rapid City, Dakota Territory, freighting with ox team in the Black Hills.

TRANSPORTATION

by Mildred Fielder



Lawrence County transportation started in the 1870's with the ox team and the mule team for freight, the stagecoach and other horse-drawn vehicles for passengers. Roads were narrow, rutty, mere trails snaking through the woods and valleys, several of them dignified as toll roads in name though they were little better than the public highways.

The freighters hauled an immense amount of traffic in their day, carrying loads estimated by some writers as weighing from 7,500 to 8,000 pounds over muddy trails that sometimes became impassable even for the powerful oxen to traverse. Early freighters hauling to the Black Hills in the 1870's are remembered to have been the Sioux City and Black Hills Transportation Company, the Witcher Company, numerous smaller outfits and the Northwestern Transportation Company that served the hills country until the time of railroad transportation. Seven or eight yoke of oxen (14 to 16 animals) were used in a bull team, and a good estimate of travel speed was around 100 miles per week. if we figure on the basis of a 12 hour day, 7 day week, those old oxen covered a bit over a mile an hour.

Stagecoaches were a piece of early Lawrence County drama. They were generally the Concord coaches familiar in stories of the old west from pioneer days. Their rounded bottoms rested on jouncing wagon springs; their passengers were protected from the elements by a windowed door on each side. From four to six horses pranced in front, guided by a driver perched high on the top of the conveyance. They moved faster than the bull teams, naturally, but a trip across country in a stagecoach called for fortitude and physical stamina to take a buffeting in a hard stiff-backed seat over roads that would make a modern man shudder in despair. The earliest stage line into Deadwood is remembered to have been the Deadwood-Cheyenne Stage line, but others served Lawrence County from time to time. The Northwestern Transportation Company stopped operating its stagecoach line when the Elkhorn railroad extended its tracks to Deadwood in 1890, but John McClintock operated the Deadwood-Spearfish stagecoaches with Harvey Fellows as driver until about 1913, the last of the famed old stagecoaches in the county.

Freighters and stagecoaches were a colorful part of early Lawrence County transportation, but they were not adequate to the increasing demands made on them.

It was not surprising that by the end of 1881 the Homestake Mining Company was building the first of the narrow gauge railroads that played an important part in the building of the Black Hills, calling it the Black Hills & Fort Pierre Railroad. No railroad reached the Black Hills from outside points at that time, so the Homestake road that left Lead to angle past Englewood through Roubaix and Bucks to Piedmont in the foothills assumed importance far greater than could be imagined today.

The arrival of the standard gauge Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad in Rapid City in 1886 and its continued rails to Whitewood in 1887 gave impetus to the building of another narrow gauge. The Deadwood Central began building in Deadwood in 1888, completing its first run in 1889. It extended through Pluma to Lead and to Kirk into various gulches known as the Ruby Basin area.

In 1890 the Elkhorn built its rails to Belle Fourche and to Deadwood. The Black Hills & Fort Pierre connected with the Elkhorn at Piedmont October 18, 1890, by narrow

gauge, and the Elkhorn standard gauge reached Deadwood from Whitewood December 29, 1890. During that same year the Grand Island & Wyoming Central, a branch line of the Burlington & Missouri River (western division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad) began building its standard gauge rails from Edgemont in the southern hills through Custer, Hill City, and toward Deadwood. For a while the Burlington and the Elkhorn conducted an exciting race to see which would reach Deadwood first, but the Burlington found the Elkhorn engine steaming complacently in town when its first train rolled into Deadwood January 29, 1891, one month late in the race.

Having reached the hub of northern Black Hills activity, both railroad companies began expanding. The Burlington acquired lease and control of the Deadwood Central and then the Black Hills & Fort Pierre and operated both as part of its system, while the Elkhorn proceeded to build narrow gauge tracks from Deadwood to Central City, Lead, and the mines beyond Trojan or Portland Junction, with a third rail for standard gauge cars on the Deadwood-to-Lead stretch.

Those were the days of the link and pin couplings to hold the cars together. The little locomotives were called hogs from their capacity to consume the quantities of wood poured into them by the fireboys. The engineers were hoggers, and a high-rolling hogger was an engineer who could really make those narrow gauge hogs move up and down the curves of the hills. There were plenty of wrecks. The first brakes on the cars were hand brakes, later replaced by air brakes of early vintage. In the winter time when the rails were icy it was the accepted practice for the brakie (or shack) to sprinkle sand on the rails by hand so the hogs could get traction. The winters were really cold when the brakies and the hoggers and the fireboys had only a wood fire in a narrow little stove burning in the caboose (waycar or crummy) to keep warm. The engine cabs were open to the wind unless some enterprising hogger had hung curtains over the cab windows for some protection.

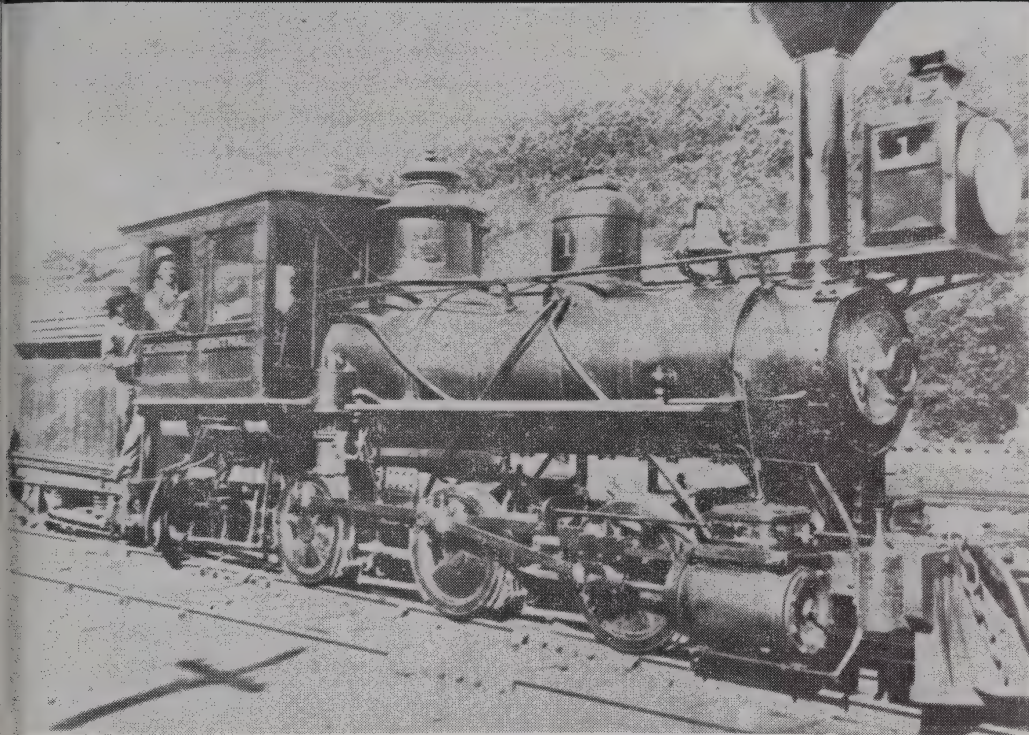
Men were killed on the narrow gauges, others crippled for life, but it was an era of adventure that railroaders will never forget.

The Black Hills & Fort Pierre rerouted its rails from Bucks to Piedmont in 1910, abandoning the line in Elk Creek Canyon because of extensive flooding, and rebuilding through Stagebarn Canyon. Its total mileage was eventually 57.32 miles, and it lasted as an industrial railroad with some passenger haulage until 1930, when its tracks were pulled up as no longer necessary. Of its seven locomotives, only two were still operating in 1930, and they were scrapped for their iron at that time.

The Deadwood Central operated under its own management for four years. In 1893 the railroad turned over its operational difficulties to the Burlington line. The Grand Island & Wyoming Central pushed a standard gauge track over the mountains from Englewood to the top of Trojan near Terry Peak, and down the other side of the ridge into Spearfish Canyon to ultimately reach Spearfish. In 1902 the steam engine was replaced in Gold Run Gulch by an electric trolley line between Deadwood, Pluma and Lead to carry passengers and small luggage for twenty-two years, the last ride being made in 1924. The Burlington stopped using a seven mile Galena spur in 1927, and in 1930 abandoned the complete Deadwood Central setup through Kirk Canyon and Ruby Basin. The last Deadwood Central locomotive, number 537, was scrapped in 1939 in the Burlington's Denver shops.

The Elkhorn, going from Deadwood up Deadwood Gulch to the top of Portland Junction, Trojan and Crown Point, sold its holdings to the Chicago and North Western in 1903. Its narrow gauge ore lines extended from the top of the mountain into the Ruby Basin area to cover approximately the same ground that the Deadwood Central reached from the Kirk side. A passenger train had been completed into Lead from Deadwood in 1902, and ran for twenty-five years until it was dismantled in 1927. The entire narrow gauge North Western track layout above Deadwood was abandoned in 1928.

In 1960, Lawrence county has two railroads still serving its towns. The North Western diesel engines pull freight into Deadwood on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday nights. The old turntable was scrapped in 1957, and the original passenger depot once used by the Chicago & North Western railroad in Deadwood has been converted to use as Deadwood's fire station and city offices. All that is left of the

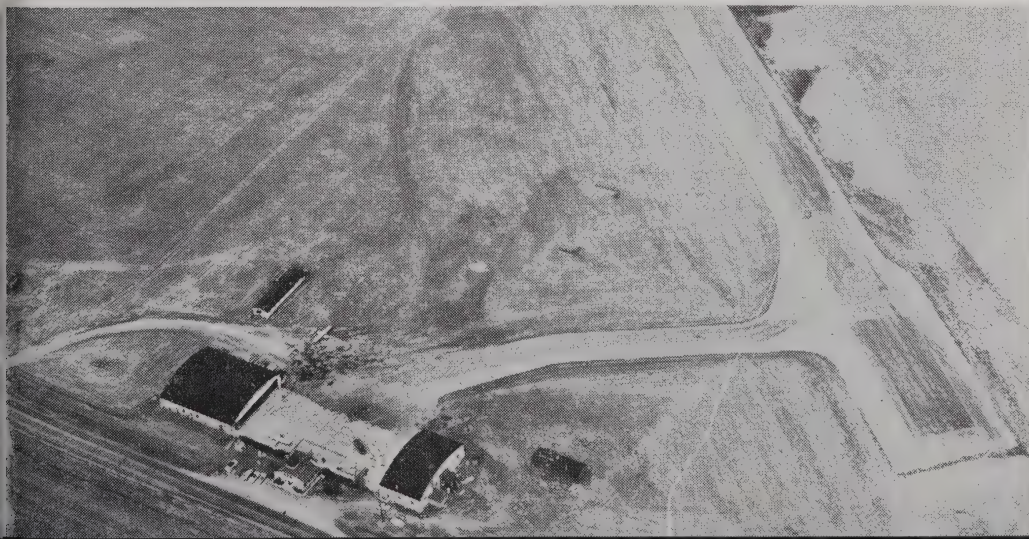


From collection of Boda Wamsley. Photo by courtesy of Jim Bullard

Deadwood Central Engine No. 1, Deadwood, S. Dak., 1899. Man in cab is George Johnson, roundhouse foreman and John Darling in gangway, roundhouse helper.

Aerial view of the Lawrence County Airport, 1960

Photo by Don Howe, by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company



early North Western buildings is the freight depot, run now by one man. M. L. Wood is supervisor and ticket agent for the Chicago & North Western at Deadwood in 1960, having held that position for the past six years. The North Western reaches Whitewood and Belle Fourche daily except Sunday with freight but no passenger service. A recent development in cargo shipments is the shipping of pulpwood from the Deadwood and Whitewood area. Mr. Wood estimates that since November 1958 around 600 cars of pulpwood have been shipped.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy still runs freight into Deadwood, too, but its last passenger run left town in September 1949, and the Burlington passenger depot was torn down shortly thereafter. The ticket office for the Burlington has been moved to the freight depot on Sherman and Charles Streets. The traffic manager's office is at the Franklin Hotel in Deadwood. All steam power is gone. The road crew comes into town with a large four unit diesel, and a 600 h.p. diesel switcher handles the switching jobs. The original old Burlington roundhouse built back in 1890 was razed around 1950. Three Burlington trains come into Deadwood weekly, freight only, arriving Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday and leaving for points south on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. R. J. Rhoades is chief clerk, having held that position from 1954; Joe R. Scalzo has held the post of commercial agent since 1956, and C. H. Young is local freight agent for the Burlington in Deadwood.

As the railroads have condensed their operations in Lawrence County, other means of transportation have expanded. Wide black topped highways U. S. 14 and U. S. 85 come from Spearfish into Deadwood and Lead, with U. S. 385 continuing south into Pennington County. Trucks handle a large portion of freight haulage, with thirteen companies serving the Lawrence County area. They are Ayres Eldon Transport, Barber Transportation Company, Black Hills Transfer Company, Buckingham Transportation, Inc., Kenny's Trucking Service, Green's Transfer & Storage, Pioneer Transfer & Storage, Pratt's Dray & Storage, Sheehan Trucking Service, and Werlinger's Trucking, with the nationwide Allied Van Lines, North American Van Lines and United Van Lines represented by agents in the local transfer companies.

Passengers ride the highways in their own automobiles or by public bus. In a county whose total population figured 17,075 in the 1960 census, Lawrence County licensed 15,354 cars, trucks and trailers by April 9, 1960. Such figures seem to show that Lawrence County residents are well wheeled if nothing else.

When the Burlington Railroad discontinued the old trolley line between Deadwood and Lead in 1924, it did not entirely forget that three mile stretch of road. Several men were interested in establishing a bus line, so the Burlington secured the first busses to be used in place of the trolleys. The railroad company did not intend to run them. They were acting only as an encouraging factor in getting the transportation established. After a preliminary unsettled condition, Dave Keffler emerged in April 1924 as the owner and operator of the Lead-Deadwood Transit Company, buying the busses from the Burlington and continuing to run hourly bus service between the two towns until 1934. In that year Walter Green bought the Lead-Deadwood Transit Company and has been running the interurban bus line continuously since that time. In 1960, as they have been for years, eleven round trips are made daily between Lead and Deadwood, leaving Lead on the half hour and Deadwood on the hour. The Lead-Deadwood Transit Company received the second bus certificate in the state and remains as the oldest bus line in the Black Hills.

The Continental Trailways is the only inter-state bus line serving the county in 1960, but it has daily service of several busses to touch most of the Black Hills environs. Though one must look under the name "Continental Trailways" to telephone the ticket office, actually the line is owned and run by the Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo Motorway, Inc., an association of the Continental Bus System. The line has been operating in Lawrence County since August 1959 when it acquired the area for bus passenger service after a strike tied up former bus lines into the county. One bus shuttles back and forth between Spearfish, Deadwood, Rapid City and Hot Springs daily, leaving Belle Fourche around 8:00 a.m. and returning that evening. Two other busses come from Rapid City to Deadwood daily, one arriving at 7:30 a.m. and heading toward Newcastle, Cheyenne and Denver and making connections with a bus for

Billings, Montana, and the west coast. The other arrives from Rapid City, getting into Deadwood at 7:25 p.m., and heading for Denver. From Denver and Cheyenne two busses come into Deadwood and Lead daily, one in the morning and one at night, the late Denver bus meeting a bus at Newcastle daily for northwest connections. Two new busses were added to the Continental fleet of this area in the past year, and plans are being made for the addition of more.

Lawrence County is particularly proud of its Black Hills Airport near Spearfish, which has been operated and owned by Lawrence County since 1934. Air mail and passenger service were first offered by Inland Air Lines with 10 passenger twin-motor Boeings flying from Spearfish on and after April 17, 1938. World War II stopped air service to the county airport in 1942 for a couple of years. In 1944 Western Airlines purchased Inland Air Lines and operated a shuttle service between the Black Hills Airport and Rapid City for mail until 1947. In 1950 Western Airlines resumed passenger and mail service through the airport, to continue for the next six years.

The Seven States Area Investigation begun in 1956 resulted in Western Airlines suspending air service into the Black Hills Airport. North Central Airlines acquired the schedule, making its first flight from Minneapolis to Spearfish and Rapid City on March 1, 1959.

In 1960 the airport boasts 4,500 feet of northwest-southeast hard surfaced runway. Two round trips are made daily by North Central Airlines, one trip leaving Minneapolis in the morning and returning in the afternoon, the other leaving Rapid City in the morning to return that afternoon. On April 24, 1960, Spearfish became the western terminal of North Central Airlines.

Besides regular airline service, Black Hills Aviation Company owned by Arnold Kolb, operates a student instruction, charter and repair business at the airport. Approximately 15 private planes besides the five Kolb planes are based there, and an increasing amount of transient traffic in private planes uses the runways daily.

Daniel J. Toomey came from Sidney, Nebraska to Deadwood in 1875, and had to lower his wagon over a cliff by

sheer manpower. Then he led his horses around the terrain to re-attach the wagon. Before Dan died, his son, Allen Toomey of Spearfish, took him over the same place by airplane in the year 1932.

One man's lifetime can be emblematic of a century of transportation progress.

Lawrence County transportation started with one-mile-an-hour ox teams. The DC3 planes used by North Central fly out of the county airport to attain cruising speeds of around 180 miles per hour. If speed is a criterion of progress, Lawrence County has come a long way in the past one hundred years.





Photo by Mildred Fielder

The Galena schoolhouse built in 1882, as it appeared in 1956

EDUCATION

Historical Background, Schools and Libraries

by Dorette Darling

LIBRARIAN, HOMESTAKE LIBRARY



Pioneer settlers of Lawrence county proved their early and continuing concern for education by the prompt establishment of schools, the founding of Black Hills Teachers College, and the patronage of two of the oldest public libraries in the state.

Deadwood's first school was taught by William Commode on tuition basis in the fall of 1876; 1877 saw the opening of schools in Lead and Spearfish by private individuals. These schools, housed in log cabins, were soon followed by public schools conducted in frame and brick buildings. A Miss Graham started the tuition school in Lead and Miss Rebecca Pettigrew opened a school in Spearfish in the fall of 1877. Central City claims the establishment of the first public school in the county as authorized by Dakota Territory law, though Crook City also claimed it was the earliest school district to be organized in the Black Hills when Mrs. J. S. Bennett taught school in that community in June 1877. Crook City's claim is borne out by the assignment of School District No. 1.

The earliest public school building in the county is claimed by Deadwood. Professor Dolph Edwards was in charge of a two-story frame building in that city in the late fall of 1877, with one assistant teacher, Miss Eva Deffenbacher. Organization of districts over the county with public support for the schools occurred in 1878 with 14 schools by 1879.

In 1878 32 pupils enrolled in the Lead City public school with two teachers, Professor Dean and Mrs. Snyder, in the fall term. By 1898 there were 1,103 pupils with 23 teachers. Buildings were rented until 1881. A central campus two-story brick building was erected in 1896. In 1903 Lead enrollment totaled 2,100 with seven schools and a staff of 41. Ward buildings and additions to the central campus were added in 1900, 1901, 1903, 1914 and 1937. The present high school building was completed in 1940 and the new West Lead building was constructed in 1955.

The independent school district of Deadwood was organized in 1881 and school bonds were issued to the amount of \$12,000. Two schools, built with these funds, were destroyed in the flood of 1883 and were rebuilt in brick. In 1903 Deadwood's enrollment was 1,200, with 24 teachers and six brick buildings.

Spearfish public school had 14 pupils in 1878 with Miss Pettigrew as teacher. In 1899 there were 230 pupils and five teachers. Terry school district No. 76 was organized in 1891 with Atlanta Fuller as its first teacher. Ten pupils met in a log cabin. By 1899 there were 217 pupils and three teachers, and in 1903 Terry had two schools with a capacity of 300. Whitewood district No. 66 was organized in 1881, and in 1898 there were 136 pupils under three teachers.

The Galena school building pictured in this chapter was completed in 1882. George McCune was one of the first teachers in the new building which housed 82 pupils in that year. Miss Nettie Wynn is listed as first teacher in the district. Others in the early years were Miss Florence Ryan, Miss Lulu Schall and Miss Katie Doyle. The school was used until 1953.

Of the church supported schools established in the county, three survive. St. Edward's Academy founded by Father Rosen in Deadwood was opened in 1883, but was discontinued within a few years. In 1918 Deadwood's St. Ambrose school

was opened with an attendance of 91 children. The Benedictine Sisters came as teachers. The first Catholic school in Lead was conducted from 1890 to 1891 by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who were recalled that year. In 1892 the Sisters of St. Benedict opened a school near the site of the present St. Patrick's school building. Parochial schools were operated for varying lengths of time from that date until 1916, when the Sisters of Charity came to take charge of classes in the present building which had been planned and donated by Bishop Busch in 1911. The grade school has been open continuously since 1916. St. Patrick's High School was opened in September 1949 and closed in May 1958. Enrollment in the grades in 1959 was 210. A Seventh Day Adventist school was established in Spearfish in 1953, with fourteen pupils.

A Congregational Academy was operated in Spearfish from 1879 to 1882. Some of its equipment was rented for the fledgling normal school a few years later. Records indicate a Christian High School sponsored by the Black Hills Christian Fellowship, an interdenominational group, was operated from 1953 to 1955 in Whitewood. Mrs. Philip E. Koontz was active in its establishment.

The chart which follows illustrates the pattern of enrollment in county schools over a thirty year period, and also shows the number of teachers employed. With the exception of Crook City, the schools listed are operating at present.

	1920	1930	1940	1950
Boulder Park				
Pupils	4	10	12	10
Teachers	1	1	1	1
Central City				
Pupils	65	50	102	62
Teachers	3	2	3	3
Crook City				
Pupils	11	18	11	none
Teachers	1	1	1	none
Englewood				
Pupils	11	16	20	11
Teachers	1	1	1	1
Hathaway				
Pupils	13	11	14	13
Teachers	1	1	1	1
Nemo				
Pupils	46	70	8	39
Teachers	2	3	1	2

	1920	1930	1940	1950
Nevada Gulch				
Pupils	50	23	31	30
Teachers	3	1	1	1
Pluma				
Pupils	10	10	61	68
Teachers	1	1	2	3
Roubaix				
Pupils	22	26	23	22
Teachers	1	1	1	1
St. Onge				
Pupils	52	41	34	36
Teachers	3	3	2	3
Terraville				
Pupils	90	66	82	54
Teachers	4	3	3	3
Terry				
Pupils	49	19	78	51
Teachers	2	2	3	2
Trojan				
Pupils	63	37	29	46
Teachers	4	2	1	2
Whitewood				
Pupils	160	137	82	61
Teachers	6	4	3	4

Enrollment and teaching staff figures for the independent school districts of the county are shown below:

	1920	1930	1940	1950
Deadwood				
Pupils	480	498	705	605
Teachers	21	24	31	31
Lead				
Pupils	1192	1253	1537	1122
Teachers	53	55	57	65
Spearfish				
Pupils	Not Available	526	655	570
Teachers	Not Available	22	24	39

Lawrence County school men and women have been leaders in education and many deserve recognition. It is regrettable that only a few can be mentioned. Bessie Oates Roberts, Florence Glenn, Edna Ford, Kathryn Ewing and Hilda Wells were among those who contributed to progress as county superintendents. J. I. Munson, principal at Central City and long-time superintendent of Whitewood school, was a gifted and witty speaker, according to some who knew him well.

J. Howard Kramer, superintendent of schools from 1937-45 at Spearfish, was vice president of the South Dakota Education Association in 1941 and president in 1948. A speaker of note, he has served on the staff of State College as Director of the Department of Education, as president of

Southern State Teachers College, and is president of Northern State Teachers College at present.

H. S. Berger, superintendent of schools at Deadwood from 1928 to the present, served as president of the Western District of SDEA and is a past president of the Black Hills Schoolmen's Club. He has served both SDEA and the National Association of School Administrators on numerous committees.

Ralph V. Hunkins, widely known as educator and author, served as superintendent of Lead schools from 1922 to 1956 when he retired. He was vice president of SDEA for two terms in 1928 and 1929 and president in 1930. His books include "The Superintendent at Work in the Smaller Schools," "The Rise of the Small School Administration," and "The Superintendent and the School Board." Convinced of the importance of regional history and the child's knowledge of the area in which he lives, Mr. Hunkins collaborated on four books for children: "South Dakota: Past, Present and Future," with J. C. Lindsey; "Tepee Days," "Trapper Days," and "Sod House Days" with his daughter, Regina Allen. The two chapters on the Black Hills minerals and the Homestake mine which he contributed to "The Black Hills," edited by Roderick Peattie, are considered among his best work.

Early recognition of the importance of higher education and the preparation of teachers brought about establishment of Spearfish Normal School in 1883. Dr. Fayette L. Cook was the administrator responsible for the early growth of Spearfish Normal, now Black Hills Teachers College. The territorial legislatures of 1881 and 1883 had passed enabling legislation which the citizens of Spearfish carried to fulfillment so that the first term opened April 14, 1884, with an enrollment of thirteen. Dr. Cook, appointed in 1885 to succeed a principal whose one year term had done little to aid the school, developed a curriculum, a teaching staff and a laboratory school which placed the institution on a foundation fully comparable to similar schools in the neighboring states. Retiring in 1919, Dr. Cook was followed by Dr. E. C. Woodburn, whose presidency saw both catastrophe and progress for the school. A disastrous fire in 1925 demolished the main building including the library. Legal decisions

endangered the status of Spearfish Normal as well as the other teacher training schools of the state, but these were resolved in 1939. Under Dr. Woodburn's leadership, the Normal saw the building replaced, accreditation regained and expansion of program.

The name Black Hills Teachers College was officially recognized in 1941 following the granting of Bachelor of Science degrees to 40 students in 1940, upon their completion of the four year college course.

Dr. Russell E. Jonas succeeded Dr. Woodburn upon his retirement in 1942 and is the present administrator. He has led an expansion program marked by construction of a men's dormitory, an addition to the library, a new gymnasium, and a duplex-type dormitory. Added academic personnel contributed to the achievement of accreditation now held by the college. A program of graduate study was initiated in 1959.

The college library traces its beginnings to January 13, 1925. On that date the college suffered the fire which wiped out all but 668 textbooks and 66 books of fiction from a collection of 15,000 volumes. The librarian at the time was Mrs. Maud Russell Carter, who continued to serve as college librarian until her death April 14, 1947. In the first eight months after the fire, Mrs. Carter, with the help of donations of money and books from friends and alumni of the college, built the collection to 6,132 volumes.

The library is today a collection of 32,000 volumes. Since it is a teacher training library, the most complete collection is in the field of education, but no subject areas are neglected. The library receives 270 periodicals and newspapers. As it is a research library a large proportion of the periodicals are bound into permanent volumes. The library also serves as a partial depository for federal documents and makes these available to the public.

According to Mrs. Ronald Phillips, librarian, the current emphasis in book purchasing is on accumulation of research materials which will be of use to the graduate program begun in the summer of 1959. The library serves not only the students and faculty of the college, but also the people of Spearfish and the surrounding community.

Two of Lawrence County's public libraries are among the oldest in South Dakota, and two are among the most

recently established. The four libraries currently circulate approximately 62,000 books a year. Their combined book stock totals more than 53,000 volumes.

In 1894, Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst gave a book collection to the city of Lead and established library service which she supported until her death. The library was housed in the Miners Union Opera House and contained 4,000 volumes in 1899. Her estate continued to operate the library until 1925 when Homestake Mining Company purchased the collection and equipment. It has been a company-supported institution offering community service from that time and is located in the Homestake Club on Main Street in quarters remodeled in 1951. Dorette Darling, librarian, cites the foreign language section as a unique feature and the South Dakota collection as one of the strongest in the state. Music, literature and technical sections are areas of strength in the 29,000 book collection. A microfilm reader and microfilm files of the earlier city newspapers is the newest expansion of service in the Homestake Library.

The Deadwood Public Library was founded by the Round Table Club on a membership basis in 1895. About 1902 it became a tax supported institution to qualify for a Carnegie grant. Mrs. Marie J. Gaston, first librarian, led efforts supported by the Deadwood Study Clubs and many citizens, to secure a Carnegie building which was completed in 1905 on Williams Street. Mrs. Elizabeth Phelps, librarian from 1902-1929, supervised moving the library into its new quarters as Mrs. Gaston did not live to see the building completed. Modernization of the interior was undertaken in 1955 when the fiftieth anniversary celebration was held. As some of the unusual resources in the 17,000 volume collection, Mrs. Elmer Pontius, librarian, points to a local history section which includes some rare Black Hills and western history titles, a theater section augmented by the gift of Miss Mary Craig's collection, genealogical resources, and a file of the "Black Hills Daily Times" and its successor, the "Pioneer-Times," from April 18, 1877 to December 1898. Acquisition of microfilm files and a reader are planned as measures of conservation of these valuable fragile sources of history.

The Grace Balloch Memorial Library was established in Spearfish as a city institution in 1945 as a result of the

bequest of Mrs. Balloch's personal library. Mrs. Balloch was a member of the Black Hills Teachers College faculty. The library has been housed since its establishment in the Spearfish Hotel, but Miss Evelyn Hesseltine, librarian, reports plans are in process for permanent quarters on land bequeathed by Mrs. Balloch's sister, Miss Anna Herr Frantz. This would permit gradual expansion of the 5,000 volume collection and additional services.

The Whitewood Library first received public funds in 1959. Prior to that time it was a club project. Librarians Mrs. Leola Long and Mrs. G. S. Queen report good use of the more than 2,000 books.

People of Lawrence county through the schools and libraries they support have provided educational opportunities for all ages. Building on the record of these 84 years, with vision and active support of their institutions, they will meet the challenge of the future.

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Current Status, 1960

by Edward R. McLaughlin

ELEMENTARY SUPERVISOR, LEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



At the present time there are thirty-seven school districts located in Lawrence County. However, only fifteen of the districts are now operating schools. This is partly due to the trend of population shifting from the rural areas to the small towns. Twenty-two school districts have closed their elementary schools and are transporting their students to Spearfish, Deadwood and Lead, on a tuition basis.

Because all thirty-four of the common school districts (districts which operate less than a twelve-year educational program) have been sending their high school students to the three independent school districts (districts which operate a high school) on a tuition basis, it has resulted in the consolidation of attendance areas but has not changed the school district boundaries or the administrative units. The people in a common school district do not have any official voice in the educational program provided for their high school students.

The thirty-seven school districts of Lawrence County have a total assessed valuation of \$47,574,501. The three independent school districts make up approximately 70% of the total assessed valuation. The Lead Independent School District Number Six has an assessed valuation of nearly \$20,240,000, which is about 43% of the total valuation of the county.

The three high schools located in Lawrence County are all accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Deadwood High School usually enrolls about 200 students, Spearfish High School enrolls about 250, while Lead High School enrolls over 400 students in grades nine through twelve, inclusive.

There are three elementary parochial schools located in Lawrence County. St. Patrick's of Lead, employing five teachers, and St. Ambrose of Deadwood, employing four teachers, are both supported by the Roman Catholic church. A one-teacher Seventh Day Adventist School is located in Spearfish.



Photo by Don Howe, used by courtesy of Homestake Mining Company

Lead High School and its Mountaintop Athletic field
back of it, 1960.

The following chart gives a good comparison of schools operating in 1959-1960:

LAWRENCE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

1959-60 SCHOOL YEAR

School District	District Number	1959 Valuation	School Census Age 0-5	School Census Age 6-21	Total	Number Teachers	Students Enrolled
Crook City	1	\$ 190,994	5	5	10	None	
Deadwood	2	6,304,576	420	943	1363	36	755
Spearfish	4	6,901,219	458	1007	1465	42	889
Englewood	5	255,615	8	24	32	1	11
Lead	6	20,239,999	898	1915	2813	87	1777
Elkhorn	7	116,904	0	0	0	None	
Central City	8	662,359	46	107	153	4	84
Galena	9	253,918	17	24	41	None	
Pluma	10	2,289,155	31	92	123	3	40
Centennial	11	278,168	2	7	9	None	
Cheyenne	12	748,594	2	11	13	None	
Terraville	13	1,069,829	49	93	142	4	65
Boulder Park	14	183,005	18	35	53	2	29
Hathaway	15	311,241	3	10	13	1	11
Reed	16	782,315	23	62	85	None	
Oakdale	18	277,094	6	8	14	None	
Crow Creek	19	187,187	8	9	17	None	
Wells	20	804,284	13	38	51	None	
Benchmark	21	94,171	1	6	7	None	
Bear Gulch	22	219,149	5	2	7	None	
Eden	25	118,055	9	23	32	None	
St. Onge	29	908,332	25	54	79	3	48
Upper False Bottom	32	329,552	15	31	46	None	
Crow Peak	39	94,920	5	12	17	None	
Spring Creek	48	255,215	3	11	14	None	
*Merritt	49					None	
Middle False Bottom	50	217,589	6	4	10	None	
Chicken Creek	51	197,748	2	13	15	None	
Roubaix	54	200,876	15	30	45	1	27
Nemo	55	277,007	14	43	57	2	42
Asbury	57	268,856	3	9	12	None	
Carbonate	58	537,033	0	3	3	None	
Whitewood	66	599,491	73	144	217	5	105
Beaver Creek	72	160,880	1	15	16	None	
Polson	73	234,869	0	8	8	None	
Trojan	75	574,279	11	32	43	1	3
Nevada Gulch	76	459,916	32	101	133	2	41
Dumont	77	51,107	0	2	2	None	
		\$47,574,501	2227	4933	7160	194	3927

*Joint district with Meade County

This information was obtained from the Lawrence County Superintendent of Schools Office.

The Homestake Mining Company is the largest property holder in Lawrence County. In addition to being the largest taxpayer in the county, the Homestake Mining Company has always supported the schools by providing scholarships, money grants, technical assistance, and materiel, for increased educational opportunities for the citizens of Lawrence County.

Black Hills Teachers College, one of the two state colleges located in western South Dakota, is accredited as a four-year college by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and by the North Central Association. The campus consists of seven buildings situated on seventy acres in the western part of Spearfish. Approximately 700 students enroll and about 150 graduate each year. Sixty per cent of the students are enrolled in teacher education, with the rest in pre-professional and liberal arts courses.

Black Hills Teachers College operates a campus Laboratory School which enrolls approximately 200 students in grades one through eight. The Spearfish Independent School District and Black Hills Teachers College cooperate in the operation of the kindergarten program which is also housed in the Laboratory School. About half of the students attending the Laboratory School are transported by bus from twelve common school districts that surround the city of Spearfish. Approximately 100 students come from the Spearfish Independent School District. A ten dollar a year charge is made for every student.

CHURCHES

by Judge Clarence P. Cooper

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



Coincident with the discovery of gold and the rush of thousands seeking wealth in the Black Hills came the family, the school and the church. The church shared with other institutions the rude facilities of pioneer life. Many of the preachers labored as miners or mechanics during the week, and on Sunday held services wherever facilities were available, or lacking them, on a street corner. The raw pioneer life was attended by constant danger. The first preacher in this area, Henry Weston Smith, a Methodist missionary, was shot and killed, presumably by Indians, August 1876, about three months after his arrival in Deadwood, while on his way from Deadwood to Crook City to hold a service. The Reverend Mr. Pickett, superintendent of Congregational work in the Rocky Mountain district and organizer of the first church in the Black Hills at Deadwood, lost his life by the overturning of a stage coach while traveling in the mountains. A whole volume might be written on the struggles of the church in those days, arising not from the indifference of the people, but from the prevailing conditions and hardships of the times. The record also shows numerous occasions of destruction of churches by fire, wind and flood in those early years.

Through the guidance of Reverend Pickett, the first organized church was started by the Reverend Lanson P. Norcross, a Congregational minister sent to Deadwood by the American Home Missionary Society. He arrived in Deadwood in November 1876, and held his first services December 3, 1876 in the Centennial Hotel. Thereafter services were held in various locations, and organization of a church was completed January 15, 1877. A church building, the first in Lawrence County, was erected on McGovern Hill, and was first used in June, 1877. Mrs. Horace S. Clark, early pioneer resident of Deadwood and Lead, in reminiscing about that church, says: "The Congregational Sunday School, for a good many years gave to each child at Christmas, a good current book of that time—not religious. I can remember seeing Judge G. G. Bennett and my father, Samuel Cushman, poring over book catalogues from the east, trying to select the appropriate books for the different age groups. At a time when there was no public library in Deadwood, that was really a wonderful thing for the young people of the town. The books were paid for by the proceeds from a concert arranged by my father, who was choir director and also trained the Sunday School children. He would use the children in chorus work, and then use the best soloists from Lead, Deadwood and Spearfish. They could easily fill a church or hall at a dollar a ticket, so the money was easily raised." This church also had a night school for young Chinese, primarily to teach them how to speak English.

Two other preachers preceded Norcross in holding services, the ill-fated Preacher Smith, who did most of his preaching on street corners, and Mark Rumney, who held services in bars and dance halls, including the famous Bella Union and the Melodeon, but neither organized a church. Pickett and Norcross also organized Congregational churches in Central City and Spearfish in 1877, and in Lead August 19, 1878. A church building which is still standing, was erected in Lead on the west side of Wall Street in 1892. The Lead Congregational Church united with the Presbyterian Church in 1912, while the Deadwood church suspended activity some time after 1903.

In 1877, the Roman Catholic Church sent the Reverend



Photo by courtesy of Mrs. Horace Clark

First church building constructed in northern Black Hills, Congregational church built 1877 in Deadwood, and used until 1903 when it was sold to Salvation Army. Building demolished in 1920's. Bulletin on church reads: First Congregational Church, Minister Walter H. Ashley, 6 Centennial Ave., Sunday Morning Worship, 11 a.m., Bible School, 12 m., YPSCE, 6 p.m., Evening Morning Worship, 7 p.m., Midweek Meeting Thur. eve. Date of photo about 1885.

John Lonergan to Deadwood, and he celebrated the first public mass in a carpenter shop on Sherman Street May 23, 1877. The first church was built the same year on Williams Street. Father B. Mackin was responsible for building a Catholic hospital in 1878, staffed by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. This was converted briefly into a school known as St. Edwards Academy, then taken over by the Sisters of Saint Benedict of Sturgis, and has been operated ever since as St. Joseph's Hospital, now in the process of completely rebuilding their facilities. The Catholic Church in Lead was built in the spring of 1878, and one in Central City later the same year. St. Joseph's Church was founded in Spearfish in early 1900 by a number of pioneers in the community, and was attended for the first year by traveling missionaries until a resident pastor was appointed in 1901. A church building which still stands was built and dedicated in 1907.

Although Methodist preachers were active in the Deadwood area in 1876 and 1877, the first formal Methodist organization in Deadwood came in 1878 under the guidance of missionary James Williams, and the first resident pastor was the Reverend R. H. Doliver. The first meeting was in a frame school building which was destroyed when a fire swept Deadwood in 1879, and the congregation lost their organ, hymnals, records and all other belongings. A church building was constructed in 1883 on Water and Pine Streets, and was dedicated March 4, 1883; but on May 18, 1883, a flood destroyed the church and most of its furnishings. Two years later a brick church was built on the corner of Shine and Williams Streets. It was dedicated May 12, 1885, and is still in use. In Lead a Methodist Church was organized November 15, 1880, by the Reverend William D. Phifer. Services were held in the old log schoolhouse, and later in the Opera House and Miners Union Hall. The first church building, located at 314 West Main Street, was dedicated August 11, 1881. In Spearfish Methodist services were held starting in the summer of 1877 by George Read, who was not an ordained minister but had been given the power by the Methodist Church to bring the message to people who needed it. Read, a blacksmith by trade, held Methodist services in Spearfish from 1877 until he left in 1883.

The Episcopal Church sent the Reverend E. J. K. Lessell as missionary to the Black Hills. Appointed by Bishop Hare July 1, 1878, he held services soon thereafter in Langrishe's theatre and the school house in Deadwood. Records indicate that Bishop Hare visited Deadwood in October, 1878. Lessell's health soon failed, and he left in May, 1879. The fire of September 1879 swept away the records of his work. A group of Episcopal ladies led by Helen M. Dennee, undaunted by the lack of a clergyman, formed St. John's Episcopal Society and set out to raise funds to build a church. They gave a series of entertainments which were highly successful both socially and financially. Bishop Hare visited Deadwood twice in 1880, the second time on September 12 to lay the cornerstone of St. John's Church, which now stands as the oldest church building in the Black Hills. On November 18, 1880, the Reverend George C. Pennell arrived as missionary to Deadwood and vicinity. He held a service in the Court House in Deadwood November 21, 1880, and in the Opera House in Lead November 28, 1880. St. John's Mission, Deadwood, was formally organized December 1, 1880, and Christ Mission, Lead, on January 1, 1881. The first services were held in the new St. John's Church building on Easter, April 17, 1881. The Methodists also used this building for a time after the destruction of their first church building. The first Episcopal church building in Lead was built on the corner of Addie and Wall Streets. The cornerstone was laid August 17, 1887, and the first services held therein March 4, 1888. This building, which is still standing, was sold to the Lutheran congregation in 1896 and a brick church erected on Main Street, the largest in the Black Hills at that time. Space was provided in the basement of the church for one of the first kindergartens in the United States, sponsored by Mrs. Phoebe Hearst. It is worthy of note that this church was moved several blocks up Main Street where it now stands, to make room for the Hearst Mercantile Company building.

The Lutheran church began work in this area in the middle 1880's when the Reverend John Dahl of Newman Grove, Nebraska, paid periodic visits and conducted services. In Lead these were held in the Masonic Hall. Formal organization of a church known as the Scandinavian Lutheran

Church was completed January 15, 1895, and a building was purchased from the Episcopal congregation in 1896. Another church, known as the First Finnish Evangelical Church was organized in 1889, and a church building built on East Main Street the following year, which is still in use by the church now known as the First Lutheran Church. The name of the Scandinavian Lutheran Church has been changed to the Bethel Lutheran Church, which congregation recently erected a new modern-styled church, herein pictured, on West Main Street. Lutheran churches have been formed in more recent times in Deadwood, Spearfish and Whitewood.

A Baptist missionary, the Reverend J. L. DeLand, was sent to the Black Hills by the Home Mission Society of that church in February, 1884, to look over the situation and decide on the possibilities for church organization. Lack of finances prevented any follow-up for a number of years. In 1887, a touring Baptist missionary, the Reverend Dwight Spencer, held meetings at Buffalo Gap, Hot Springs, Rapid City, Sturgis, Lead and Deadwood, but organization of churches was then postponed until the railroad to the Black Hills was completed. In September, 1888, the Reverend F. Purvis was sent to Deadwood, and he organized the first Baptist church in western South Dakota. He stayed for two years and was responsible for organizing several other churches in the Black Hills area. It is reported that changes of pastors were frequent, since many of those sent in from the eastern part of the United States found the frontier life too rugged. One woman, Miss Ida Sherman, stayed longer than most, and was noted for organizing a school for Chinese children which at one time numbered forty pupils, one of whom later went back to China as a missionary. A church building was built in Deadwood on Williams Street, which was dedicated September 6, 1891. The Deadwood Baptist church was also responsible for organizing churches in Rapid City, Hot Springs, Custer, Hill City and Sundance, Wyoming. The Lead Baptist Church was organized September 3, 1891 by the Reverend George Thompson, and a church building erected on the corner of Main and Stone Streets. The building was sold in 1934 and was converted into a commercial building. The present church building on Railroad Avenue was built in 1935.

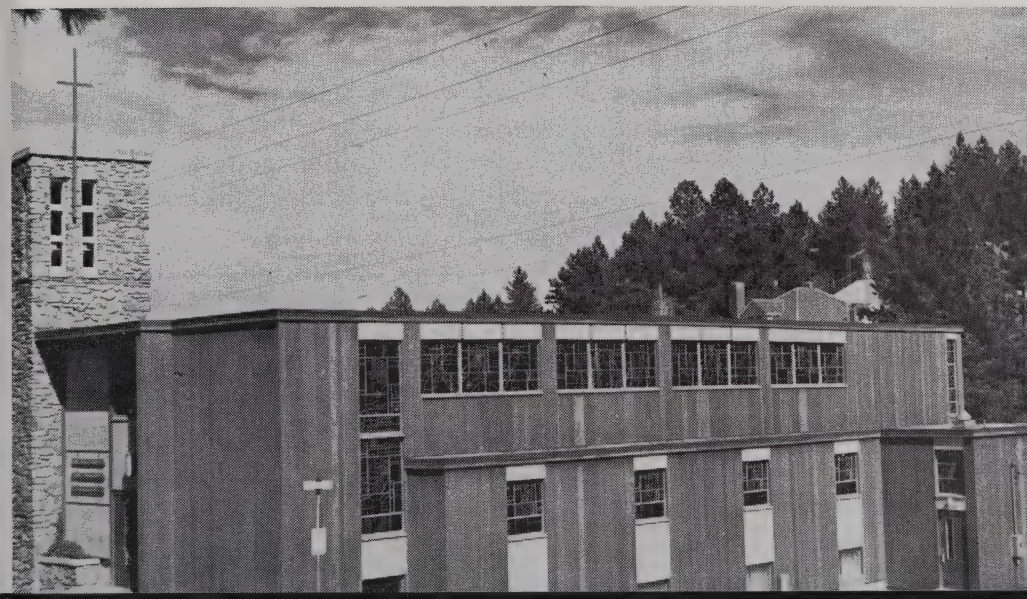


Photo by Diana Cooper

The Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dry Creek, built in Dakota Territory, 1887. In 1960 the church is no longer used but is kept in repair, and the graveyard is used and maintained.

The Bethel Lutheran Church, Lead, is one of the several modern church buildings in Lawrence County, built in 1955.

Photo by Diana Cooper



The Presbyterians first established a church in Lawrence County at Lead in November, 1894. The Reverend W. S. Peterson held services in the Society Hall until a church building was erected in 1900 on Wall Street. The Congregational Church joined with the Presbyterians in 1912, and another congregation known as the Christian Church joined them in 1915. The church building was taken down and rebuilt on its present site on Baltimore Street in 1939.

In the early days churches were also established in rural areas, as may be best typified by the church herein pictured, built north of Whitewood in the midst of a Danish settlement. With the advent of good roads and transportation the rural churches were largely abandoned, and the farm families joined the churches in nearby towns. Churches were also established in mining communities such as Galena, Terry, Carbonate Camp, but as mining activities ceased there and the people left the communities, the churches also moved on.

New churches have been founded as the need has arisen, and church membership has steadily increased. In this year of the Dakota Centennial it may prove of interest to future generations to list the active churches in Lawrence County, together with their pastors.

The Spearfish church calendar lists the following: All Angels Episcopal Church, J. W. Rice; Little Log Church (Free Methodist) Irwin L. Knigge; Christian Science Society; Seventh Day Adventist Church, Donald Sales; Methodist Church, Richard Pittenger; St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), P. Molnar; St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Msgr. W. Sobelewski; First Baptist Church, Charles A. Nichols; Congregational Christian Church, Arthur W. Westwood; Foursquare Church, Fred J. Schultz; and Our Savior's Lutheran Church (American Lutheran Church), L. S. Ziebarth.

In Deadwood there are: St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Michael P. Thompson; Baptist Church, Edrie Regier; Episcopal Church, Harry S. Nelson; Methodist Church, H. Jack Berg; Grace Lutheran Church, E. E. Kaelberer; Wesleyan Methodist Church, Andred J. Gerleman; Christian Science Society; Assembly of God, W. A. Hawkins.

In Lead are located: Presbyterian Church, Sylvan Wil-

liams; Christ Episcopal Church, Eric Wright; Baptist Church, Thomas R. Hastings; Christian Science Society; Methodist Church, Vernon Morrison; Assembly of God, Virgil Booher; Bethel Lutheran Church, Herbert Cleveland; First Lutheran Church, Jack Hill; Jehovah's Witnesses, Curtiss LaLonde; and St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Monsignor Thomas Healy.

In Central City only the Methodist Church remains active, with Jack Berg, pastor of the Deadwood church conducting services.

St. Onge has a Catholic Church with James Sheehan as pastor, and a Congregational Church with the Spearfish pastor, Arthur Westwood, conducting services every two weeks, while on the alternate Sundays a church school is in session.

In Whitewood there is the Presbyterian Church with Sylvan Williams of the Lead Church as pastor, and the Immanuel Lutheran Church, whose pastor is L. S. Ziebarth of Spearfish.



Photo by courtesy of James Jelbert

Central City hose team, about 1904

Lead and Deadwood baseball clubs, the two leading clubs of the Black Hills in 1894. Left to right, standing in front of net: W. E. Lowe, manager; Deadwood players Thompson, 1b; McMahon, 2b, captain; Ball, ss; Russell, rf. Lead players Strickler, 3b; Davenport, ss; Brown, p and lf; Seated: Deadwood players Bennet, 3b; Liebman, lf; Perry, cf and p; Peterson, c; and Williams, p and cf. Lead players, McPheely, rf; McCarthy, lf and p; Mullen, 2b and captain and manager; Moran, c; Halloran, cf; and Gilroy, 1b. Seated in front of Lead players, Eddie Young, mascot.

Photo by Meddaugh, Lead, 1894. Used by courtesy of Floyd O. Peyton



SPORTS

by Carlton O. Gorder

VICE PRESIDENT, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF THE BLACK HILLS, DEADWOOD



Lawrence County residents live in a vacation land of seldom paralleled beauty, and they have learned to use it to the fullest advantage. They work hard when they work, but when they have time to play they give their complete interest to as varied a sports program as you will find in any part of the country. The mountain land of Lawrence County offers boating, swimming, hunting, fishing, skiing, golfing, whatever an outdoor vacation might demand. The schools of Lawrence County towns play football, basketball, track with an unflagging verve that includes everyone in their interest. Summer finds such additional games as softball and baseball, or horseback riding and rodeos. If you want to camp, here are the spots where camping is best. You name it—we have it.

We have tried to take the sports most prominently followed, discussing them one at a time. Necessarily, space limits the review to only highlights through the years since the county began.

Hook and Ladder

In the early days the races between the various volunteer fire departments of Lead, Deadwood, Spearfish and Whitewood were perhaps the most colorful and exciting of all sports. In those days fires were fought by man-powered equipment and consequently strong, fast runners were very much in demand.

For many years Deadwood and Lead would alternate the 4th of July celebrations and the hose races were always an outstanding event. They were also a most interesting part of the county fair in Spearfish and the annual Pioneer Society and firemen's picnic in Whitewood. In fact, no celebration or parade was complete without them.

Many companies were organized, some of them as early as 1877. They included the Lead Hose Companies Numbers 1, 2 and 3, and Lead City Hook & Ladder; Deadwood Hook & Ladder, Homestake, South Deadwoods, Fountain City Hose & Ladder and Pioneer Hook & Ladder; Spearfish Hose Number 1, Albert Hose Number 2, West Side Hose Number 3, Spearfish Hook & Ladder; Central City Hose Company, and Central, Golden Gate & Terraville; and Whitewood Hose Company. In one of the early tournaments races were timed as follows:

Coupling—One length, fifty feet of hose, was laid on the ground, the lower end coupled. The pipeman ran 50 feet, broke coupling and attached nozzle three threads, 4.3 seconds.

Novelty Coupling Race—50 feet of hose was laid connected to hydrant and the other end coupled. Hydrant man stands at hydrant ready to turn on water. Nozzle man runs 50 feet, breaks coupling, attaches nozzle and time is called when water issues, 4.8 seconds.

Hook & Ladder—Run 250 yards, raise 20-foot ladder, climber goes to top when time is called, 37.3 seconds.

Hub 'n Hub—Two teams at a time run 600 feet, lay 250 feet of hose and get water through nozzle, 39 seconds.

One of the unusual races, perhaps for its novelty (it being probable that such a one had never before taken place in this or any other country) was a 200-yard Hub and Hub race between two teams, one captained by Wing Tsue, the other by Hi Kee, well known Chinese merchants of Deadwood. It was won by Hi Kee, 30.5 seconds.

The Central, Golden Gate and Terraville team, which won many races over a period of time established the fast time of 21.25 seconds for the 200-yard Hub and Hub.

Motorized equipment brought a close to this fascinating sport.

Foot Races

Foot racing was also a very popular sport in the early days. One of the most exciting races of all time, certainly the most discussed, was the Bethune-Brennan race in Spearfish in 1888. Both men were professionals, but ran under assumed names. Brennan gained the confidence of Lead, Bethune of Spearfish. They ran before one of the largest crowds ever to witness a sporting event in Spearfish. Sensing skullduggery, the Spearfish promoter flashed a six-shooter at Bethune with, "The first time you get behind, I start to shoot." Bethune broke the tape and didn't stop running until he reached the MacGregor farm. There were riots in the streets of Spearfish when positive evidence of the sell-out was established.

Niki Ronin, a real speedster, came to Deadwood in about 1906 to play baseball. He won all races easily for a long time until Lead took the wraps off Fred Ley, imported under the name of Hamilton. Ronin could beat Ley for 50 yards but not the 100 yards and Ley was supreme for a long time until Rapid City brought in a man who ran under the name of Gardner, real name Hoffman. He was a big ten champ and merely looked over his shoulder at his competitors to see how hard he had to run. His backers recouped a substantial part of their losses suffered on the Ley-Ronin races.

Baseball

Baseball in the 1870's had become a professional sport of certain consequence. It was a fast game and rough and did not make a hit quickly.

In the early 1900's it was not uncommon to have Lead and Deadwood scheduled to play ball at celebrations for a purse of \$1,000.00, winner take all. Poker Alice was much in evidence at these occasions, calling all bets.

In 1903 games were played between the members of the Olympic Club of Deadwood and the Golden Stars of Lead.

Real good ball was played from 1908 through 1955. From 1908 to 1922 Lead, Deadwood and Spearfish spiked their teams with salaried players from organized leagues and big league ball was enjoyed by the fans of this community.

Many tournaments were held and teams from Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota participated.

In 1922 Deadwood won the Black Hills League pennant and at the close of the season they brought in two great Yankee ball players, Babe Ruth and Bob Meusel, to participate in a game between the Champs and All Stars. Despite their best efforts neither one of these great hitters managed to hit the ball out of the park, which disappointed over 2,000 fans.

In about 1923 the Homestake League was organized with six teams—Nemo, Upper Mines, Lower Mines, Mechanical, Metallurgical and Surface.

Twilight games were played twice a week, free of charge, and large crowds witnessed the games. Rivalry between the teams and their followers was terrific and the championship game on Labor Day was always the outstanding event of the celebration.

When this league closed in 1956, baseball in Deadwood and Lead slowed down to a whisper.

The Black Hills Teachers' College has played a good brand of baseball and the 1960 season was a most successful one with a 13-4 record. They were the best in the state and earned the right to represent South Dakota in the four-state tournament in Omaha, Nebraska. The winner of that tournament would have the privilege of entering the national tournament. The Teachers were unable to go to Omaha.

Junior League baseball was revived in Spearfish in 1957 and in Deadwood and Lead in 1960. The Spearfish Juniors went to the state tournament in 1959 and again in 1960. They finished in third place in 1960.

Basketball

Basketball originated in the United States in 1902 and although slow getting started it has in recent years caught fire and has attracted the greatest support of any high school sport.

Basketball was played some by the Spearfish Normal under Coach McCormick in 1903 and Lead High School had teams, both girls and boys, in 1909.

In 1918 Lead won the state championship by defeating Mitchell 27-25; Dell Rapids 19-18; Elkton 20-11. Members of that team were George Morthland, Albe Holleran, Henry Cotton, Jimmy Cotton, Charles Zurich, Herman Bowen, Ed Clark, Ed Shedd and Homer Brooks. From that team, three were selected on the All-State team, Homer Brooks, George Morthland and Albe Holleran.

In 1931 the Lead team, coached by Joe Dunmire, went to the state tournament for the fifth consecutive year. They were runners-up in 1931. They also entered the state tournament in the years 1926, '27, '28, '29, '30, '31, '37, '39, '42, '43, '44, '45, '46, '53, '55, '59 and '60.

During the year 1956, Lead's all-state center, John Bertolero, set a Black Hills Conference and school individual record of 46 points in a game with the Spearfish High School Spartans.

The Spearfish High School team coached by Carl Neiman went to the state B tournament in 1946 and their team coached by Gene Smith went to the state A tournament in 1956.

The Black Hills Teachers College won the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference crown in 1926 and 1927 with a team known as the Big 5—Allan Malcolm, James Norton, H. Art Sullivan, Maurice Lodge and Brick Owens.

Deadwood won the state B championship in 1939 and 1940. They were the first in the history of the state to win two consecutive championships. They won in 1939 by defeating Langford 29-16, Arlington 32-20, Armour 29-27. Members of that team: Don Ellison, Roland Furois, Junior Keene, Renald Furois, Duane Winburn, Charles Hardin, Al Bobrick, William Savage, Arnold Thoresen, S. Kirby.

They won the 1940 state championship by defeating the Flandreau Indians 46-29; Mt. Vernon 33-32; Gregory 38-33.

Members of the team were Bill Savage, Junior Keene, Roland Furois, Renald Furois, Junior Heil, Jack Anderson, Louis Sperling, Archie Erickson, Ken Johnson, Don Ellison.

For the second consecutive year Don Ellison, Roland Furois and Junior Keene were placed on the All-State team.

Deadwood also won the state A championship in 1954

and has the distinction of being the only school in the state to win the championship in both Class A and Class B.

Members of that team were Billy Jones, Eddie Morris, Reece Palmer, David Klein, Woody Williamson, Gene White-lock, Chuck Crotty, Tom Gorder, Henry Frawley, Richard Sears, Donnie James and Larry Mitchell. Jones, Morris and Palmer were named on the All-State squad, and David Klein received honorable mention.

In 1908 a group of Spearfish citizens decided to call the Spearfish teams the Queen City Athletes. The Queen City Athletes played a fine brand of basketball from 1908 to 1923 and won several league championships.

The Homestake Basketball League was organized in 1946. It is sponsored by the Homestake Mining Company and is comprised of 6-8 teams representing Lead, Deadwood and Spearfish.

The players participating in this league are generally high school graduates, college men or college graduates, coaches, ex-coaches, etc., and a top-flight brand of basketball is played.

The games are played in the Central High School gymnasium and they are free of charge to the public. The school board allows the teams to use the gym without cost and the Homestake Mining Company defrays all other costs.

In 1924 R. G. Cartwright, physical education instructor in the Lead Public Schools, started a weight team tournament. The teams were organized according to weight—85, 100 and 115 pounds and unlimited or heavyweights.

Seventh and eighth grade as well as high school boys are eligible to enter and all schools in the Black Hills participate in this annual event.

In 1952 a change was made and the teams were organized according to the boy's grade in school instead of his weight.

The boys were taught not only basketball. Boxing, wrestling and gymnastics of all kinds were stressed and the tumbling acts between halves were as enjoyable and thrilling as the games.

During the early years the games were witnessed mostly by parents and friends of the boys participating and the boys did not wear the beautiful bright colored suits they

have today; in fact many a rubber band and safety pin were in evidence.

This tournament has grown tremendously and continues to be one of the outstanding events of the year. The program has been expanded to include the junior football and track teams.

The tournament, in honor of the man responsible for it, has been named the "Cartwright Tournament" and trophies presented at the end of each tournament also bear his name.

Football

Football on a national scale—professional, college and high school—has become one of our greatest and most popular sports. Football fans of this community certainly have not wanted for thrills in this great game.

For years the Thanksgiving Day game between Lead and Rapid (on many occasions for the conference title), the annual games between Deadwood and Lead, the annual Armistice Day game between the Black Hills Teachers College and the South Dakota School of Mines and many others presented an opportunity to enjoy some of the best football played anywhere.

Football was played in Deadwood the first time on November 24, 1897 in a game between Deadwood and Fort Meade which Deadwood won 18-0. Games were played between Deadwood and Spearfish Normal as early as 1899 and between Lead and the Normal in 1900.

Rivalry between these three schools has continued on a friendly basis for a long time.

In 1926 Lester B. Plowman became coach at Deadwood. In 1927 Joe Dunmire took over at Lead and in 1928 Paul Rose assumed coaching responsibilities at the Normal. These three men were very much alike in ideals and they were good friends.

They taught their boys to be fierce competitors and to play hard, clean football.

The Black Hills Teachers College under the guidance of Coach Rose, won the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference title in 1928, 1929, 1932, 1934 and 1935, a truly remarkable record. The College tied with Northern State Teachers College in 1940 and won it again in 1946.



Photo by O. A. Vik Studio. Used by courtesy of Charles Lown

Queen City Athletes, Champs 1923. Left to right, standing: Charles Gerner, Ed Roush, Rex Repass, Walt Dickey, Roy Patterson. Seated: Earl Todd, Brownie Lown, Roger Remschel.

Lead and Spearfish High School teams playing football October 1956, on Lead High School's night illuminated field.

Photo by Mildred Fielder



Lead won the high school Black Hills Conference title in 1935, '38, '40, '41, '42, '44, '51, '55, and '59.

Deadwood won its only conference title in 1954, the year when Bill Jones was chosen captain of the All-State team.

One of the most thrilling games ever played was the one on Armistice Day 1935 between Rapid City and Lead, in which the conference title was at stake. Both teams were undefeated and Rapid City had been selected to represent South Dakota in a contest between representative teams from North and South Dakota. In one of the best games ever played in the conference, Lead won 13-6.

In 1944, Stewart Ferguson, a nationally known and very colorful coach took over at Deadwood. Ferguson instilled in his boys a desire to win but he also taught them to have fun while playing. He had very few big boys so he resorted to trickery and his razzle dazzle and unusual formations brought delight to the fans and fear to his opponents. He had a fine won and loss record. He died suddenly in 1955, and Ferguson Field is named in his honor.

Track

The sports which make up the fundamental part of track and field programs of today were those in which primitive men, lacking equipment, indulged. Thus the art of running, jumping and throwing have come down from antiquity and were given impetus, as sports, in the time before the Christian era and afterward by being featured in Olympic games.

Track is undoubtedly the most delightful and graceful of all sports and it is one in which the United States excels.

This district has produced some wonderful track stars and the trophy cases are full of beautiful trophies won by them.

During the years 1908-1912 Deadwood and Lead high schools placed high in the state meets.

In 1923 the Deadwood High School track team, coached by Julius Hall of Lead, won the Black Hills championship and four members of the team, Bud Parker, Lloyd White, Paul Marion and Ted Jennack went to the state meet in Brookings and they tied for third place in the state. Lloyd White established a new record for the discus throw and he represented Deadwood High School in the national meet in Chicago where he placed fifth in that event.



Peterson Studio photo, 1929. Used by permission of Milo Basker

Milo Basker of Lead (shown here in a basketball uniform), won first in the mile run at the national high school track meet in Chicago, 1929, time 4 minutes 33.2 seconds. Basker was never seriously pressed in either the mile or half-mile in meets in South Dakota.

In 1928, Milo Basker, a member of one of Lead's great track teams, broke the state record in the half mile and qualified for the national meet in Chicago. He finished eighth in Chicago.

In 1929, Milo Basker won the state meet in the mile and qualified to enter the national at Chicago. He won first in the national meet, time 4 minutes 33.2 seconds. At that same meet Basker was selected to run in an All-State medley relay race between the different states, in which South Dakota placed second.

In 1953 the Lead track team, coached by Wendell Handley, represented Lead High School at the state meet in Sioux Falls.

Members of the team were Pete Torino, Bob Roesler, Bert Roesler, Martin Warvi, Jerry Anderson and Jim Velzy. They finished in third place, the highest in the history of Lead High School.

In 1960 the Lead High School mile relay team set a new Region 8 record of 3:32.4 for this event. Members of that team were Bob Burns, David Olson, Bob Lickingteller and Dennis Dunn.

In 1958 Dale Hansen, a member of the Deadwood High School track team, set a new regional meet record in the shot put with a throw of 49 feet 6 inches. He finished second at the state meet.

In 1960 Dale's brother, Don Hansen, of the Deadwood High School, broke Dale's record. He threw the shot put 52 feet 7 inches.

The Black Hills Teachers College track team of 1959 had one of its most successful seasons. The team established five new Black Hills Teachers' records:

440-yard dash....	Carlton Monahan.....	50
880-yard run	Jerry Trier	2.05
Mile run.....	Guy Fowler	4:54.2
880-yard relay...	Jim Wolfe, Stanley Jones, Laurin Carroll, Carlton Monahan..	1:33.5

Hunting and Fishing

The greatest hunters of them all, the American Indians, roamed the hills and hunted big game for food.

Since their time hunting and fishing have become the favorite sport for many men and women.



Photo by Dave Harris, by courtesy of Kenneth Scissons, State Game Warden

Deer at feeding station area, northern Black Hills, during winter of heavy snow, 1953.

Trout streams abound in the Black Hills, and the Spearfish Canyon, Elk Creek and Spearfish Creek are among the best fishing spots to be found anywhere.

Sheridan Lake and Pactola Dam are also very popular fishing spots.

Hunters by the thousands look forward each year to the opening of the game bird season and later the big game season. The prairie chicken, ruffed grouse, Hungarian partridge, wild turkey and Chinese pheasant furnish rare sport for the bird hunter. Deer and elk are to be found in the hills, and hunters from many miles away frequent our famous hunting camps.

The mountain lion can be seen at times and bobcats and badgers can be found in certain areas. The coyote and occasionally a gray wolf offer excellent sport for the hunter; the jack rabbit and cottontail are still around in good numbers; the porcupine moves unmolested; mink and beaver are trapped successfully.

The raccoon is becoming a pest in certain areas and the beautiful skunk is very much in evidence at times.

Golf

In 1915 three gentlemen from Spearfish, Allen Toomey, Clarence Ott and Charles (Brownie) Lown, who knew nothing about golf, took a trip to Aberdeen to see a golf match.

What they saw they liked and they came home, bought a piece of ground from Tom Matthews, sunk three tomato cans in the ground and had themselves a three-hole golf course.

That was the beginning of the Spearfish Canyon Golf Course. A short while later they enlisted the aid of John Bland to lay out a nine-hole golf course. Grass greens have replaced the sand, the club house has been enlarged and improved and the Spearfish Canyon Golf Course is one of the fine clubs in the state.

The Lead Country Club was built in 1921 and organized July 19, 1922 with the following officers: Chambers Kellar, president; B. C. Yates, vice president; L. A. Elkins, secretary, and John A. Bertolero, treasurer. The beautiful club house was designed by Kenneth Pyle, a draftsman for the Homestake Mining Company, with interior decorations by Mar-

jorie Yates Price. John Bland helped build the course. The 1951 State Amateur Tournament for both men and women was held on the Lead golf course, with distinguished visitors Patty Berg and Marlene and Alice Bauer attending.

Tomahawk Lake Country Club was organized May 30, 1935, with the following officers: Lee V. Morford, president; R. E. Driscoll, vice president; H. E. Norman, secretary, and A. A. Coburn, treasurer.

The club was officially opened on Sunday, July 14, 1935. It was the first golf course in the Black Hills to have grass greens, and was built by Lawrence Hughes. Three state tournaments have been held at Tomahawk, in 1938, 1941 and 1951. In each of those years, John Rachetto, a member of Tomahawk, won the state championship. Rachetto was runner-up in Sioux Falls in 1939 and 1942, and he won the senior championship in Sioux Falls in 1958.

For several years the Lead and Tomahawk Country Clubs have sponsored an open tournament and many of the best pros and amateur golfers participate.

Since much of the Sturgis club also is in Lawrence County, we can boast of four top flight courses.

Swimming

The Ole Swimming Hole isn't what it used to be but swimming is still one of the greatest of all sports.

In the early days the ice ponds and creeks were favorite swimming places with a loaf of bread, can of beans and a raft all the equipment needed. Bathing suits were unknown.

Now there are many delightful resorts in the hills where hundreds of citizens enjoy not only swimming, but water-skiing and boating. Roubaix Lake, Pactola Dam, Sheridan Lake, Deerfield Lake and Sylvan Lake are the most popular.

In 1914 a very fine pool was installed in the Lead Recreation Building and it has taken good care of thousands of swimmers. Many Scouts, boys and girls, have learned to swim in this pool and many a certificate and merit badge has been earned. Red Cross Life Saving Certificates have also been awarded there.

In 1958 the Deadwood Rotary Club sponsored a successful drive for a municipal pool in Deadwood. The pool was opened in 1959 and is a very popular spot for the youngsters of Deadwood and other hills towns.

Skating

For many years ice skating has been one of the most enjoyable of winter sports. In the early days ice ponds would freeze over, vacant lots, football fields would be flooded and the rinks would be dotted with skaters.

On November 2, 1935 the ice rink at Blacktail, the largest indoor rink in the middle states and the northwest was opened. It has a skating space of 60 x 360 feet and people of all ages frequent this rink.

Softball

Softball, an offshoot of indoor baseball, got its name when baseball players decided they wanted a big softball that could not be hit too far. The Lead Softball Association organized about 1938, Deadwood Softball League including Spearfish, Fort Meade, Belle Fourche in 1940.

State tournaments were held in Deadwood in 1946, 1947, 1951 and 1954.

The Spearfish Snappers were runners-up in the 1947 tournament. Elmer Herber, brilliant pitcher for the Snappers, pitched five games in two days, won four, and lost the final game to Local 304 Sioux Falls at 2 a.m. Score 10-8.

Junior softball was organized in 1953 and the Gold Pan Tournament started in 1954. The first tournament in 1954 and the last in 1959 were won by Franklin Grill, 1955 by Nisland, 1956 by Martin's Sinclair, 1957 by Belle Fourche, and in 1958 by Conoco of Deadwood.

Wrestling

Wrestling is the oldest known sport in the world.

In about 1920 Earl Caddock, a disciple of the scientific version of wrestling and later world champion, performed in Deadwood. In 1959 Vern Gagne, world champion and exponent of the modern art, put on a show in Deadwood.

The best recent wrestling was college and high school in Spearfish. The Spearfish High under Coach Roger Denker won the state championship in 1958 and in 1960 and was runner-up in 1959.

Members of the team were Clint Matson, Roger Gregson, Boyd Ausmann, Doug Dittus, Gerald Hebert, Terry Linander, Bill Buchholz, Norm Christofferson, John Mattson, Mike Vance, Keith Riggs and heavyweight Bill Shepperson.



Photo by courtesy of John Rachetto

John Rachetto, Deadwood, putting in 1941 State Golf Tournament at Tomahawk Country Club, Deadwood. Rachetto won the state championship in 1938, 1941 and 1951.

Skiers at Terry Peak waiting at the lower rope tow on Stewart Slope, Terry Peak Ski Area, South Dakota, 1959.

Photo by Mildred Fielder



Skiing

Skiing was in the beginning, and continues to be, a means of travel in snow-bound countries.

The moderns have found that it could be converted into a sport of many forms and as a consequence, skiing has become a great winter sport in those portions of the United States which are visited with snow in the winter-time.

Skiing became a major winter sport in the northern Black Hills in 1938 when the Bald Mountain Ski Club was organized with J. D. Johnson its first president.

In 1947 the club name was changed to Terry Peak Ski Club and during that year the first annual ski meet was held.

Terry Peak has been classed as "America's Newest Winter Sports Paradise." It is the highest ski slope between the Rockies and the Alps and is the fourth highest mountain in the Black Hills.

In 1949 two jumping hills 60 x 125 feet were built on the Stewart Slope and the 3rd annual ski meet featured the United States Army 14th Regional Combat Ski Troopers.

In 1950 floodlights were installed on the slope and at the 4th annual meet championship skiers and jumpers from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, brought the first competition to Terry Peak.

In 1953 the chair lift was put in operation. The lift is 4,450 feet long and has a vertical drop of 1,099 feet.

The chair lift provides Terry Peak with a facility that attracts skiers from all over the nation and puts it on a competitive basis with other areas.

In 1953 the first jumping meet and in 1954 the first junior jumping meet sanctioned by the Southern Rocky Mountain Ski Association of which Terry Peak is a member was held at Terry. In the junior meet Terry Peak skiers took two firsts and two seconds with six visiting clubs participating.

In 1956 the Terry Peak Ski Club was host to the United States Olympic Nordic Ski team for its final week of training on their way to Cortina, Italy.

Terry Peak has been represented by its junior members at various ski meets in the United States with most grati-

fying results. They have competed in Colorado ski areas at Steamboat Springs, Winter Park, Aspen, Arapahoe Basin, Loveland Basin and Gunnison; at Ishpeming, Michigan; Terry Peak, South Dakota; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Squaw Valley, California; Reno, Nevada; Franconia, New Hampshire; Sun Valley, Idaho, and Yakima, Washington.

Bowling

Bowling, which is called America's No. 1 indoor sport, with millions of participants, dates back to ancient Germany where the practice originally was part of a religious ceremony.

The first bowling in Lawrence County was outdoor bowling across the road from McDonald Park in Deadwood. It was started by a group of Germans and they bowled on Sunday afternoons.

In 1901 two bowling lanes were established in Deadwood and bowling was a popular sport until 1908 when these alleys were closed. In 1936 the Mapleway with four lanes was opened and it is still operating at capacity levels.

The first alleys in Lead were built on lower Main Street by Harry Free. However, it was not until 1914 when the Homestake Mining Company installed six lanes in the Recreation Building that bowling came into its own as a major indoor sport. The Homestake has given not only their employees but the entire community free bowling for both league and open bowling. In 1959 the Homestake Mining Company sponsored an open tournament which was the largest in the state.

Bowling was introduced in Spearfish in 1904 and operated until 1911. It was revived in 1937, and in 1951 O. A. Kelley took over and installed six lanes and the first automatic pinsetters in the Black Hills.

The excellent facilities offered the bowlers in these towns has resulted in top league teams and many individual star performers.

Horse Racing, Rodeos and Saddle Clubs

In 1908 the Lawrence County Fair Board was organized and for a long time the annual Lawrence County fair in Spearfish was the outstanding celebration in the county.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad ran special

trains for the occasion, and citizens from all over the hills spent the day in Spearfish.

The main attraction at the fair was the horse races. Horses of national reputation, trotters, pacers, saddle horses were imported for the occasion and the horse lovers were given an opportunity to enjoy the best in this thrilling sport. This phase of the celebration was discontinued about 1918.

In 1939 Deadwood held two pari-mutuel races, and the Spearfish Snappers Club held several of the same type from 1950 to 1953, but there was not enough enthusiasm to justify continuance. The sport seems to have come to an end in the northern Black Hills.

In the early days a rodeo meant the end of a long cattle roundup and a celebration among the cowboys who had participated in the job.

Today, riders who have never seen a ranch are top performers, and the sport has become international in scope. Probably more people attend the rodeo in Madison Square Garden, New York, or Calgary, Canada, than anywhere else.

The "Days of '76" show in Deadwood, organized in 1924, has become one of the outstanding rodeos in the west. Such famous national champions as Earl Thode, Jim Shoulders, Casey Tibbs and many others have appeared in this show. In 1959 Benny Reynolds, national champion and famous "Name That Tune" contestant on television, gave a fine exhibition.

The St. Onge Rough Riders Rodeo sponsored by the St. Onge Saddle Club is one of the best in this area. They are members of the Rodeo Cowboys Association of America, and they have not only some of the best professional talent but also outstanding local talent of whom many are consistent winners.

The Spearfish Snappers Club has sponsored the Spearfish rodeo for seven years. Under the direction of the Mackey brothers it has become one of the big attractions in the hills.

In 1940-42 three saddle clubs were organized, St. Onge, Spearfish, and the '76 Saddle Club of Deadwood. The Twin City Saddle Club of Deadwood-Lead was begun in 1955. The four clubs have remained active and hold annual meets together.

Saddle horses are available for riding by the general public throughout the northern Black Hills at various tourist centers.

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There are other sports, games, amusements which ought to be mentioned as ones observed in Lawrence County. Picnicking is a casual part of county life. Tennis is played several courts in various towns. Badminton, even horse shoes are available in some areas if you want them. Lawrence County has them all, and those who live here enjoy the games for their own sake.

Perhaps therein lies the secret which this book has tried to portray. Residents of the area have always known how to work, and they know as well how to play. The answer to Lawrence County—how it grew and why it grew—is just plain old enthusiasm.

